

## The Dark Side Of Fate Chapter 11 - 20

Chapter 11 ~Tamia~ It would be fair to think someone in my condition would find it difficult to sleep at night, especially after personally meeting the Dark Alpha himself. After shaking and palpitating on the floor, Kaira and I got our shit together and went to lie on the bed. I slept off immediately. I woke up feeling refreshed. The bed was comfortable, and I wondered why the Dark Alpha had come to see me. I doubt we will be tumbling in the sheets any time soon. "I must say, Tamia, The Wolf Lord is hot," Kaira purred in my head. "We have to get our shit together and not look weak, or else we will end up being prey," I told my wolf. "I think we shouldn't overdo it; he doesn't seem to be the patient type," she said, and I smiled. "Then we should test his limits," I said with a smile, and she purred. My wolf's understanding of testing the Alpha's limit differed from mine. Hers had to do with tangling in the sheets. I went to shower in the bathroom, and I was surprised at the number of things at my disposal. "How do you think Leo is doing? Do you think he will be stupid enough to come here?" Kaira asked me, and I felt a pain in my chest. It was a sadness. I was so mad at Leo that I did not know I would miss him. The separation was going to be hard on me. He was all I had ever known, and contrary to everything he did wrong, I knew Leo would have died instead of giving me up. It was what fate did to us. "I hope for all our sakes he stays in Mountain and does not come all the way here with warriors. He will be a father soon; Amanda needs him. Our story is over," I told Kaira, and tears rolled down my cheeks as I spoke to my wolf. I had not really mourned my situation until now. I took off my clothes and got into the bath to weep. I was so mad at him, and everything was so complicated. Now I might never see him again. Leo was my best friend. I hated fate. It brought Amanda and the Wolf lord into our lives and messed everything up. I knew he tried. Seeing how other Alphas handled the situation, he did well. Amanda wouldn't have won if her father wasn't an Alpha. Leo would have ignored her until she got the message, but bringing her into our home made it impossible. Still, he tried to the best of his ability. I wept. I was in the bathroom for a while before leaving it. "Where are you?" I heard Avery's voice in my head, and I sighed. "In my room," I said. "We are having breakfast with the ladies. Warning, do not refer to our host as the Dark Alpha; they do not like it. The Beta made me understand it last night," She said, but there was more to him that she didn't divulge last night. "What about last night?" I asked her. "Gosh, Tamia, he is a steed," She said, giggling. "You are naughty," I said. "Well, I have to make the most of my situation. Contrary to our first impression of him, he is a gentleman. How did it go with the Alpha?" She asked me. "Nothing happened, and it will remain that way," I told her, and she was silent a bit. "Have it your way. But you need to get over Leo, Tamia. I hope Leo

doesn't do anything stupid, like coming here for you, because I know he can. Trust me, him alive with Amanda will be better than him dying to save you," She said, spelling out the truth for me, and I sighed. "Yes," I replied. "Has your mark faded?" She asked me a weird question. "No, why?" I asked. "Your husband is crazy, Tamia; Mine and Linda's have faded; they have rejected us. It was painful, and I even passed out. I feel weak, but I am free. Leo's mark might cause an issue here because it means he still claims ownership of you. It can be seen as defiance," She warned, and I smiled internally because that was Leo and me, a defiant couple. "Hopefully, he does it, or the Alpha will claim you by force," She said, and I smiled. "I want to see him try," I said, and she giggled. "Trust me, he will do it blissfully," Avery said, and from the way she sounded, she had forgotten about her past. I exited the bathroom and went to check the wooden cupboard in the room. It was an antique cupboard with all kinds of decorative carvings on it. It was art, and there were clothes in it for me. Revealing, sexy clothes. I found a short black lacey gown. It had a design covering my nipples and crouch, but the rest was netty. There was no underwear, so I guess we were to give a show. I wore my hair down to cover Leo's mark. I wore a bit of makeup made available at my vanity table. I did a simple cat eye makeup with nude glossy lips. I looked provocative. I never appreciated my pear-shaped body until now. Looking lovely wasn't to get the Alpha's attention, but to show him I was unbroken. I exited my room, and someone was by the door, ready to lead me to breakfast. I was taken to a hall with lots of beautiful women but no men in sight. Avery rushed to me, and she looked stunning, Linda followed, and indeed I noticed their marks were gone. We hugged. Avery was the happiest of the three of us. I did not expect Linda to be so pleased after all that had happened to her. I guess the loss of her baby was the last straw. The Gamma had his work cut out for him. "Who are all these women?" I asked, looking at the crowd of easily eighty to one hundred women. "The Alpha, Beta and Gamma's Harem. This is where they eat. I guess we were put in the harem. We are the only lunas here. Lunas are usually put in service. I learned that from one of the women here. I guess our story will be different." Avery said, and I looked at all the women that were there. They were looking at me weirdly. I knew why. I could recognise jealousy when I saw it. My friends and I found a place to sit, and we were about to serve ourselves food when a group of women came to us. "Aren't you used goods? You shouldn't be in the harem" The brunette in front said to us. "Do you know what happens to Lunas here?" She asked, smiling and everywhere went quiet. "Used goods do not stay in the harem. I bet it was a mistake bringing you here," She said, and I wondered what her deal was. "The Wolf Lord already has a favourite, and she isn't you," She said and leaned close to me. "It would be wise to keep your head down because I am in charge around here," She said, and I smiled. I did not think she was worthy of a response. I did not want to waste

my breath on her. I could see she was jealous and afraid. Of course, she will be worried. My friends and I were the first Lunas to be brought to the harem. "Can't you speak?" She yelled at me, and I honestly did not want to hurt her, but Kaira was already growling in my head, gearing up for a fight. I was worried for her because I would easily rip her to pieces. "I guess the Lunas are scared," She said aloud for all to hear; it was her way of showing she had dominated us. "Do not mistake silence for fear," Avery told her calmly. I knew she wasn't half as patient as I was, and she, too, was a warrior. "I would walk away if I were you," Linda said, and I smiled. "I would listen to them if I were you," I said calmly, and the woman smiled. "I will make your lives hell here. I have the Alpha's ears, and I will make sure he makes you suffer," She said, looking at me. Of course, I will be her problem. Avery belonged to the Beta, and Linda belonged to the Gamma. The woman and her sidekicks walked away. I could see the others feeling sorry for us. The moment they left, a red-haired girl came to join us. "Hello, I am Katya; I was an Alpha's daughter before I was brought here," She said and looked at me. "I heard you are in the Alpha's harem. You are the first Luna to make it there. All three of you. Lunas are usually put to service. Anyway, be weary of Lilly. She does have the Alpha's ear, and she could have him do things to you by lying against you. She has done it to several of us. We think he sleeps with her, but we will never know," She said, and that last part hit me. That was precisely what a harem is meant for. "What do you mean by you think he sleeps with her?" I asked, and She smiled. "I know it says harem, but they never touch us. The Alpha, Beta and Gamma don't sleep with us. We are hopeful it will happen one day, but it doesn't. We just keep them company, throw parties and all the fun stuff except sex, of course, that's all," Katya said, and that was interesting. I looked at Avery and smiled because I guess the Beta had broken his personal code with her. Her cheeks coloured, knowing what I was thinking. "Thank you for the heads up, Katya. I appreciate it." I said, and we started to serve our food. Three servants approached us immediately as if in a hurry. "Sorry, madam, I wasn't supposed to bring you here," The woman that brought me said, and before she could speak, Lilly cut in. "I knew there was no place for used goods here," She said, and the women laughed. "The Alpha wants you to join him at his table," The Servant said, and I wanted to grin because of the silence that washed through the hall. I realised the other two servants were sent to Avery and Linda, and we were to Join the Alpha, Beta and Gamma for breakfast. I guessed we had been levelled up. I looked at Katya, who was stunned and smiled at her. "She comes with me," I said, and the servant wanted to protest, but she figured I wouldn't let up. "I will remain here, Luna. The Alpha never sends for anyone. This is the first time. It will be wrong to aggravate him." She said, and I let her be, not because I was scared but because I noticed she was frightened. "Just this once. You will eat with us next time, Katya," I said and stood up. The women

no longer looked at us scornfully. They were scared and worried because Lilly had made them misbehave. “Don’t worry, ladies, I wouldn’t tell,” I said to them, seeing the relief in their eyes. But Lilly’s eyes burned. It was a pleasure meeting all of them. We were ushered to a small dining room, and the moment the three of us walked in, the men at the table were at attention. The Alpha looked at me with approval, and the Beta beckoned Avery to join him. She went quickly. Linda and I took our time to join the men we were attached to. “Good Morning, Alpha.” I greeted the man and went ahead to greet the Beta and Gamma. My friends did the same. “Call me Sylvester,” he whispered in my ear, and I swallowed. He gently lifted my hair off my shoulder to see my mark. “Your husband isn’t letting you go, I see,” He said with a low growl. “Give him time; he is mourning,” I said, not wanting my sacrifice to be in vain. If Sylvester went after Leo, he would kill him. I did not want that. “Please give him time,” I pleaded, and he growled. “For your sake, I will ignore it for now,” He said and served my juice. Why was he so nice?

Chapter 12 ~Leo~ A week passed, and the reality of what had happened to me sank in. I had sent Amanda home to her father, so I could mourn my wife. Max asked me to release her, but I couldn’t. Releasing her meant I had given up on her and I didn’t want to give up. I didn’t know if she was well or what they were doing to her there. “We need to release her, or the Dark Alpha will see our mark on her as an act of defiance,” Black warned me, but I couldn’t. I decided I would write a letter to the wolf lord. Pleading with him to give me back my wife and promising never to work or act against him. I did not care if what I was doing was foolish, but I had to do something. I could not sit on my arse and mope. If he won’t give her back, the least he can do is let me hear her voice and know that she is okay and happy where she is. “You will be causing more harm than good. What if he sees it as an act of defiance? Did it ever occur to you that Tamia gave herself so we could live? The situation was terrible, Leo. We would have died; they would have killed all three of us. She chose the best option that kept us alive. Tamia is a smart woman; that is why we fell in love with her. She will take care of herself there, but she isn’t coming back, Leo. Do not deceive yourself. Take the gift of life and peace that she gave us by sacrificing herself and make the most of it,” Black said, and I roared. “If I find that Devin,” I said aloud, and Black growled. “Now that bastard has a lot of explaining to do. He touches what is ours and then goes back on our deal with him with a flimsy excuse,” Black said, agreeing with me. I walked to my table in the living room. It was the only furniture there. I was yet to fix the place. I sat with a pen and paper and decided to write a letter to the Wolf Lord. I was taking what my wolf said into

consideration. The first letter was to Tamia. “My Emerald Queen, I am still going through the motions. I would be lying to you if I said I am handling it well. You knew I would have willingly died, but you did the right thing when I did not have the courage to do it. I could not leave things where we left off. I am sorry for everything. I tried, but my best wasn’t good enough. I did not plan to have that baby with Amanda, it was sudden, and I would have willingly tried with you. I would have made an effort. I wanted to have a daughter that looked like you and had your strength. I guess fate really had it in for us when it messed up our happily ever after, and took you to the north. I pray you find peace and Joy there. I know it is crazy, but I hope you get to do all that you want. If he ever lets you go, know that you will always have a home with me. I will release you to make your life easier with the Wolf lord. I do not know what or who you will be there, but I pray that the same fate that destroyed us smiles on you there. I love you, Tamia; I always have and always will. Mountain will never have a luna again. Until I die. That is a promise that I will never break. Yours, Leo/ Black” I read the letter several times, and each time, tears fell because it felt like I was letting go. I hated my life at those moments. I wished I could storm the north and get her back, but I knew that would be suicide for my entire pack and me or the region. I could not let her sacrifice be in vain. I folded the letter and put it in an envelope. Then I started another letter addressed to the Wolf Lord, Sylvester Volkov.

“Your eminence, I write to you in peace. I did not know of Brent Pack’s crime against you and did not partake in it. Sadly, the entire east had to suffer the consequence. My wife gave herself up as a tribute to save my pack, my life and my fated. I do not write to make demands but to plead with you. She is the most precious possession in my life; now that she is with you, I am empty and alone. I love my wife dearly, and I plead with you to go easy on her. I know I dare not ask you to return her, but I plead with you to care for her. Our last few months together weren’t good because I found my fated. Tamia has suffered enough. I do not know if it is too much to ask, but please take care of her. She likes to have coffee in the morning. She always goes on runs. When serving her hot chocolate, there has to be marshmallows in it. She prefers vanilla salts for her bath. She talks in her sleep whenever she is having a nightmare. I always wear her socks at night because her feet get cold, regardless of the weather. She doesn’t eat after six in the evening, and she likes her privacy. She always acts brave, but deep down, she is sweet, innocent and loving. She speaks her mind most of the time and is a great critical thinker. Do not take her defiance as offensive. She is just herself. Please do not kill her fire. Allow it to burn brightly. I will release my wife to you after I have mourned her loss; please do not hurt her, and if you ever feel kindly towards her someday, let her go with dignity and pride. I am begging not as an Alpha but as a husband that has lost his wife to his betters. Please, your eminence, take care of Tamia.” I wrote, and tears streamed down

my face with the last words. I did not want to admit to myself that she wasn't coming back. Even though I dared not try to take her back, this was the least I could do to make sure she was alright. I folded the letter in an envelope and linked Casper, my Beta, to meet me at my house. Casper arrived a few minutes after I had called him, and he was surprised to see the empty living room, with nothing but a table and chair. "How is Amanda managing?" he asked, concerned for my fated. "I sent her to spend some time with her father", I replied. "Damn, Leo. You look like shit," Casper said, and I nodded. "I feel like it, too," I said, and he had a sad smile. "Thanks to her sacrifice, they didn't wipe us out. She will always be my Luna," He told me, speaking his truth, and I nodded because the same went for me. "This is all Kyle's fault; he shouldn't be allowed to go free for bringing such cruelty upon us. The Dark Alpha only attacks when he is taunted. Why did Kyle attack a pack in the Western region?" He asked me, and I sighed. "The bastard denies doing it," I replied. "If he didn't, then someone did it in his name because the Dark Alpha's claims check out. The attackers said the east was bringing an end to his reign in the west. They claim they were trying to liberate the west from his oppression. The men that were captured said it was Alpha Kyle who ordered them to do it. They were his warriors, Alpha," Casper said because I asked him to investigate Devin and Kyle. "What about Devin?" I asked. "His excuse checks out. The north attacked the south because they knew of their alliance with the east," He said, and I growled. I wanted to find his faults so I could go after the bastard, Bane or whatever he called himself; I was sure he bled the same as all of us. I would have found a way to enact my revenge. "I need you to mail this to the north," I said, handing him my letters. Casper looked worried and afraid of the content of the letter. "Do not worry, Casper, it is a farewell to my wife and a plea to the Wolf Lord," I said. He collected it and left. Three days later, I learned Devin was around, and we were all summoned for a meeting. I was eager to go. I might have given him some respect in the past, but he didn't have my respect anymore. I arrived at the party, and there was an uproar. Everyone was still grieving their loss; even Max was grieving Avery. Sometimes I believed he was psychotic. I knew he did not treat his luna well, I wondered why he was grieving her, but it wasn't my place to ask. I saw Devin where he was listening to everyone's complaints, and I walked up to him. He was about to speak when I punched him hard in the face. "That is for flirting with my wife," I said, wanting to do it since the night he danced with her. I sent another one again. "That is for abandoning your duty and making me lose my wife in the process," I said, and he was in shock. "Tamia is dead?" He asked, looking pained to his soul. "No, asshole, she was taken as a trophy," I said, and other Alphas came to hold me. I watched rage rise in his eyes. "They took her? We must get her back, Leo," he said "You and what Army? After what happened in our region, we should lick our wounds and move on. There is no way

we can defeat that madman. We have lost enough. We lost things we can never recover; people we love. There is no point walking down that road again,” Alpha Christian said, and others agreed with him. “The Wolf Lord does not rest. He will find a reason to return until he owns this region fully,” Devin said, and I laughed. “He already owns this region. Why do you think he took the Lunas of the three most powerful packs in the east? To stake his claim. I know we will hear from him soon,” I said to stupid Devin. “We can act before he decides to station his men here,” Devin argued. “I do not have anything else to give, Devin.” I said, feeling defeated. “Alpha Kyle did not attack the west. the Wolf lord just needed a reason to attack here. That is his method. He is sick like his father. He will be no different, trust me. He will return for your region if we sit around licking our wounds. We have to take the battle to him. “And then what?” I asked him, “Just because you are skilled does not make you an expert in these things. I am beginning to think you got to where you are by luck,” I said, and Devin growled at me. “My kindness towards you is because of Tamia, do not stretch it, Leo. I am warning you. Your wife was an amazing woman, however brief our meeting was. It wasn’t like you had any respect for her. You had another woman in your arms when I saw you. You introduced that woman as your mate, so don’t come here pretending to be wounded by this.” He said, and as unfair and untrue his words about my emotions were, my actions were the same. “I think we should leave well enough alone and comply,” Alpha Christian said. I decided to walk out of the meeting. Alpha Ramzey accosted me, as always. “When is Amanda returning to you? You should marry her now that Tamia is gone,” he said, and I shook my head. The incident was still fresh. “So quick, Ramzey. I will never marry Amanda. Fate might have wielded it. I have fulfilled all obligations to her, but I will never marry her. Mountain will only have one luna in my lifetime, and that will be Tamia. Tell Amanda she can come home if she wants to.” I said and stepped to the old man. “Let this be the last time you will approach me like this again. I do not want you to ever speak of my personal life again,” I warned him and walked away. Whatever they planned on doing in that meeting would no longer concern me. I have made peace with the Wolf lord, and I will not look for his trouble for Tamia’s sake.

Chapter 13 ~Tamia~ I had spent two weeks in the north, and my living conditions remained the same. Sylvester was good company when he wanted to be and was silent most of the time. As much as people feared him, I was a bit relaxed around him. He exuded much power, but I did not let it faze me. In fact, I saw it as a challenge. I spent a lot of time in the library and in my room. We had beauty treatments every other day, and I noticed love blooming between Avery and Marcel, the Beta. I was happy for her. I saw

her smile in ways I had never seen before, and I wondered how far they were willing to go with this. I met other Lunas that were in service, and while some of them were happy, some were neutral about their condition. But no one was abused or maltreated. They treated the women nicely; some had even found love in the north with a warrior or an officer. It was like an everyday life, not the slave and master scenario painted for us. It comes down to saying people never really know the truth about anything unless they are in it and experience it first-hand. I lay on my bed, wondering what Leo was doing. I was sure Amanda was over the moon about my exit. It would no longer be three nights a week for her anymore. She gets to keep her fated to herself and, in a few months, welcome their pups into the world. I was happy for them but sad for me, because they have something I will never have, A home, family, love and continuation in their pups. My future wasn't really certain because the alpha was unreadable. "Come to the east garden, Marcel; let me throw a cocktail party there," I heard Avery's voice, and I managed to get off the bed. I was getting bored of the sheer clothes in my wardrobe, but it seemed the alpha wanted to feed his eyes all the time. I wore a peach dress that looked like a tunic with sandals and headed out. Sylvester walked out of a room that had huge doors; I figured that was his bedroom, and Lilly followed after him. I figured the rumours about him fucking her were true. He saw me and stopped. I held his gaze as always and looked at Lilly, who was blushing. She was trying to send a message, and I smiled at her. "I would not want to interrupt you," I said and tried to excuse myself, but he held me back. He grabbed my wrist, pulled me to his body, spun me around, held my neck gently, and leaned close to my ear. "Leave us!" he ordered Lilly, and she quickly moved away. "Where do you think you are going dressed like that?" He asked, and I swallowed. His pinewood scent was intoxicating. "Avery is having a cocktail party in the east garden," I managed. "You should only dress like this for me, green- eyes," he said. "I have a name, you know. It is best you start using it," I said, and he twisted my wrist. It hurt a bit but not too much; almost a bit of a turn-on. "Or else what?" He said, and I felt him grazing his teeth along the side of my neck, and I stifled a moan. "Your husband is stubborn; I will force his hand soon," he said, and I swallowed, hoping Leo would let go. He had told me he would die before doing it; I needed him to stay alive. Sylvester took me to his room. It was grand. The room looked fit for a king. He was a lord, so it was understandable. He handed me clothes; a shirt and shorts and they looked like his. "What should I do with this?" I asked "You are to attend the party in that. You have fed everyone's eyes enough. Now you will only feed mine," He said sternly, and I laughed. "What is funny?" He asked me, and I stopped. "You have a lot of ladies in your harem. Why so concerned about me?" I asked him. "I ask all the questions here, green-eyes," he said and walked out of his room. I guess he was heading somewhere when I bumped into him. I left his room in



a hurry. I did not want to be accused of theft. I returned to my room which was only a room away from his. I changed into his oversized clothes and went to the garden. I noticed some ladies from the harem were there, and even Lilly had invited herself. I did not like the woman one bit. Ever since I learned she was twenty-three, I stopped being considerate. I walked past her and her friends and heard what she was telling them. "Alpha was on fire this afternoon," she said, and the other ladies who were younger than her giggled. I learned people respected her because Sylvester was screwing her, and she promised to teach the others how to catch his attention. The girls were stupid to think Lilly would teach them how to catch Sylvester's attention. That was the one thing that gave her an advantage over them, her only superpower. There was no way she was going to teach them anything. I walked to Avery. She looked at my clothes and frowned. "What are you wearing, Tamia?" She asked me, and I laughed. "Sylvester didn't want me wearing the tunic I came in, so he gave me his clothes to wear," I said and everywhere went silent. I called his name, and I was wearing his clothes. "Oh my, he is the jealous type like Leo. You always get those," Avery said, and I smiled and nodded. Ignoring the fact that the party was silent. "Where is the music?" I said, and she giggled. "No music. We are just chatting, eating and drinking." Avery said, and I looked at Linda, who smiled a bit. She was drinking orange juice. One thing I noticed since we got to the north was that I hadn't seen Linda with alcohol. It was almost as if she had completely cut it out of her diet. I was happy for her. "Marcel is taking me shopping tomorrow. Is there anything you want?" Avery asked me, and I frowned at her. "Wow, that is a privilege. Are you sure you two aren't in love?" I asked her, and she shook her head. "Hasn't said anything to me; we are just fucking," Avery said. I could understand her reluctance to get emotionally involved with anyone. "Well, if you are happy, then I am happy for you," I said, and we laughed. I took a sip of my juice and sat next to Linda. "How are you?" I asked, and she smiled at me. "Better than I was yesterday," She said, and I smiled at her. "The gamma?" I asked her, and she smiled. "He has been understanding. Hasn't touched me or pressured me. To think Avery will be the one getting some here," she said, and I laughed. "I was wild back home; here I am, remorseful," She confessed to me, and I hugged her. "It gets better," I told her, and she saw the mark on my neck. "Leo is serious," She said, and I touched it, feeling worried for my husband. We had fun at the party, and soon it was time for dinner. Avery, Linda, and I headed to the dining room. On our way, Lilly accosted us. "Please do not bore the alpha or get him too worked up because I usually get the brunt of it," she said and walked away before I could respond. The bitch always had to have the last say. "What is it with her?" Linda asked disgustedly. "I am wearing his clothes and calling his name without consequence," I said, answering Linda's question. "They aren't screwing, you know. He is just fond of her," Avery said, and I laughed. "Oh, they are," I

said, remembering what I saw this afternoon. "I saw them exit his room together," I said, and she frowned at me. "Well, guess Marcel doesn't know that part," She said, divulging where she got her information. We entered the dining room, and Marcel and Theodore were there. Sylvester wasn't, and I wondered where he was. Maybe buried inside Lilly somewhere. We sat and waited for Sylvester to grace us with his presence. He finally came and did not say a word. He sat at the head of the table with me beside him. He placed his hands on my bare thighs and caressed them gently. I was glad I wasn't wearing a skirt because I was sure he would have touched me on that table. "How was the party?" he asked me. "How it should be," I replied, and he smiled and continued eating his food. We finished, and it was time to leave. "Feed my eyes tonight," He said, and I felt butterflies in my tummy. I did not know why I felt it, but it was there. He did not come to see me in the night as he had insinuated, and I ended up sleeping, feeling a bit disappointed. Two days went by, and I did not see him. It was as if he had travelled. I feared he had gone to the east to make Leo reject me. I hoped for all our sakes that wasn't what happened. I stood in front of the mirror in the morning, combing my hair when I felt a sharp pain pierce my heart. Kaira howled in pain, and I cried. What was happening? I felt my energy draining. I knelt on the ground, trying to understand what was happening to my body. I was feeling disoriented, and I felt a fever coming. I had never felt this type of pain before. It was a soul-ripping pain, and I felt I would die. I began to fear I had ingested poison. I screamed. "What is happening to us?" Kaira asked, unable to understand the pain. My breathing was shallow, and I felt completely weakened. I lay down on the grown, waiting for the pain to pass. I think I laid there for almost an hour, going in and out of pain before I passed out. I woke up still on the floor, but I wasn't feeling as strong as I used to. I looked out the window, and it was evening. I wondered how long I had been out for. I felt incomplete. I decided to look at my complexion in the mirror. I managed to get on my feet and look in the mirror. I was as white as a sheet and had a fever. Then I noticed something. My neck was bare. Leo's mark was gone. As much as I wanted him to release me, I did not know how I would feel when he finally did. I felt empty as tears rolled down my eyes, while staring at my bare neck. I felt lost, as if I did not belong anywhere. I was no longer connected to the mountain pack. As much as I kept asking my husband to free me, I didn't want to be free. I didn't want to be separated from him. Our lives together flashed in my mind. All the happy and sad moments. The painful ones, too, and I fell on my knees and wept. Fate had destroyed my life. While I thought of it, I became more scared that Sylvester might have gone to the east to force or kill Leo. I began to wail. In those moments, I wanted to die too. Who would have thought Leo and I would be star-crossed? Everything went smoothly from the moment we started dating, until we got married. We thought we would live happily ever

after, but fate had other plans which did not involve us remaining together. “Please be safe, Leo,” I whispered. I could not hide the fact that he was my confidant and friend. My support and strength. I wept because I was afraid Sylvester had forced him. I cried because I might never see him again, and we didn’t say goodbye properly. If only we had said a proper farewell, I would feel better, but I will never forget what we said before the northern soldiers barged in. I remained on my knees, weeping. It was official; I was nobody’s luna, and I had no pack.

Chapter 14 ~Sylvester~ “My darling Sylvester, by the time you read this, I would have moved far away from the north. I know we planned to spend the rest of our lives together, and I looked forward to it. Three months ago, my brother finally found his fated; she isn’t his girlfriend. It left his girlfriend broken. I never want to feel that way. Your eighteenth birthday is coming soon; I am afraid she won’t be me. Where will that leave us? I have decided to follow my uncle to the south; please do not come looking for me there. I hope you find your fated, and I wish you all the best. Love Susan” I lay in bed, reading the letter my girlfriend left me eleven years ago. We were in love, and everyone saw her as the next Luna of the north after I succeeded my father. I had promised her that I would risk being weak and reject my fated if I ever found my fated, and it wasn’t her. Susan had no faith in my promise and panicked. She ran away a few months before my eighteenth birthday. I have never heard from her ever since. I was heartbroken at first, then I became angry, and then I became numb. Never wanting to feel that way again, I locked my heart away. I never found my fated, the reason why she left, and I never fell in love again. No woman ever caught my attention again. When my father was murdered, and I had to take up the lordship, it became worse because I now didn’t have time for romance anymore. It remained that way until recently, when Tamia came into my life. Something that was supposed to be a trophy soon started giving me sleepless nights. I was patient, but I didn’t know how long it would last. When the east decided to insult me by attacking my region, I had to put them in their place. I had no intention of taking over their region, but I wanted to warn them, and I was glad they got my message. When the trophies arrived, I thought it would be as usual, and I would draft them accordingly, but I was wrong. Those green eyes burned into my soul; I had to compose myself when I looked into her eyes. She was tough, courageous, a true luna, and she was mine. She had given herself to save others, unsure of the fate ahead of her. Tamia got me, and her hold was tight and powerful. After Susan, love stopped having meaning, and relationships lost their value. I kept a harem of lovers for a while and sent them all away when I turned twenty-six. What

I had now was just a collection of trophies I had never touched. I kept a harem so no one would have ideas or hope, but Tamia was different. I knew I would be breaking all my rules with her, and I hoped, for my sake, she would not be my downfall. When she referred to herself as used goods, I was annoyed because she was like wine; the older, the better. Priceless and perfect. Who would have thought I would find a woman to bring me to my knees? I wanted her for myself. I needed to give her time to heal before I buried myself in her and claimed her as mine. She needed time to mourn and accept her new reality before I made my move, but one thing I was sure to do was to make my intention towards her clear to everyone. So I ensured she ate with me and all the rules that applied to my trophies did not apply to her. She was free to do as she liked. I spent time with her at night, and we talked about life. I wanted to know the extent of her knowledge. I tried to understand her mind. She didn't disappoint me, either. My wolf, Knight, was drawn to her like iron to a magnet, and he troubled me to make it official. The mark gracing her neck annoyed me, but I kept my cool for her sake. If Leonardo Albert continues to defy me, I will have to end him to take what is mine. Two weeks passed, and she was a bit more relaxed with me. I was tempted to sleep on her bed, but I would wait until she invited me. Seeing her in the tunic provoked me, and I decided she wouldn't wear any of the sheer outfits given to her unless I was there. I spent two days away from the estate. Marcel, Theodore and I had a small business to attend to in the neighbouring town. I wondered what Tamia would think and whether she would miss me. Based on her temperament, I also knew she wouldn't tell me. "Did you figure out who staged the attack?" I asked Theodore, my Gamma, and he shook his head. Someone had attacked the border of a town in the north, and I needed to find out who. I had been on high alert since my father was killed on his retirement trip. My mother lived in the town whose borders were attacked, so I had to be extra careful. I also did not want to lose her; she was the only parent I had left. "We are still investigating, Alpha," Theodore said and sighed. I was very uncomfortable. I would only be comfortable if the culprit had a name, face and location. It always made me feel safer. I let it rest and decided to speak to the town's Alpha. He didn't know what caused the attack, but he told me the attackers seemed to be from the east. The east was too far for someone to stage such an attack and not try to succeed. I also knew I had just attacked the east and taken their loved ones from them. Could it be that they wanted to retaliate? Could it be that they wanted to take their trophies back? If that was the case, they were stupid because if I had to send my men to attack them again, it would be to raze their territory and structure to the ground. I do not take likely to threats. Noticing my mood change, Marcel, my Beta, called my attention. "Let us not be hasty, Alpha. The east suffered dearly because of one Alpha's mistake. I doubt they will do this. Let us investigate further so we can know what to do, besides we

have their wives, sisters and daughters; we can get information out of them if the need arises,” He pointed out and smiled at me. “And what would we do if they refuse to give us information?” I asked him because I knew he was getting attached to the Luna he was fucking. “Then we will torture it out of them,” he said, and I laughed. “And you will willingly torture Avery?” I asked him, and he smiled. “She will give up her husband’s secrets in a heartbeat, Alpha. The man was a douchebag. He used to beat Mia, her wolf,” he told me, and I was shocked at the kind of savagery they practised in the east. “I do not even want to tell you what that bastard, Kyle, did to his luna because he found his fated,” Theodore said, and whatever it might have been must have been terrible. “I doubt Tamia would give up her husband’s secrets, though. You need to be careful with that one, Alpha,” Marcel warned me, and I smiled. “I can never lose my head or neglect my duty because of a woman. She fascinates me quite alright, but if she ends up protecting my enemies, she will become an enemy,” I said, and I meant it. She might have enthralled me, but I wasn’t stupid. We did some research and finally headed back to the estate. I wasn’t eager to see Tamia after what I had discussed with my men. I realised I had to slow down just in case I needed information from her. Especially information she might not be willing to give. I want to be able to deal with the matter unclouded. Evening came, and Marcel, my beta, brought a letter addressed to Tamia and me. I knew her husband sent it, and I was curious to see what he had to say. I opened it and read both letters. It was the tone of a grieving, broken man. The fact that her last months with him weren’t great made me relax. If not, I might have sent her back. The humility and pain the letter represented touched, my soul. It was a letter of true love. He was giving her to me. He might not have said it clearly for me to see, but he was giving his consent for me to care for her and love her. I did not need it, but I appreciated it. Tamia must have been important to him; too bad he was too weak to keep her. Based on the letters, he had lost her long before I took her from him. I now realised why she gave herself up. She did not want to be his luna anymore. The situation must have been heart-wrenching for her to choose the unknown over him. It made me remember Susan and why she left me. It was late in the evening, so I took Tamia’s letter to her. I was glad for all the tips Leo gave me, but I had no plan of wooing her. I knocked on the door, and no one answered, so I let myself in. Tamia was on the floor in tears. I did not need to know why; the mark on her neck was gone. I went to her and held her. The two must have loved each other dearly, and everything that went wrong must have been hard on both of them, but judging by their situation, this was for the best. I held her on the floor, and she cried in my arms. I could hear the pain in her wails. Fate messed up their love story, and his weakness wrecked them. “He sent you a letter,” I said and handed her the letter with a broken seal. “I had to read it for security purposes,” I said, stroking her back gently. “He sent me a

letter too. That I should take care of you,” I said, and her tears fell freely. I decided to leave her so she could read the letter privately. I stood up, and she grabbed my hand to stop me. “Stay with me,” She said, and I nodded. She read his letter and then placed it against her chest and cried. I let her cry. It was clear that even though they knew the marriage was over, neither was ready to let go. They were too attached. She calmed down after a while and had to swear allegiance to me to join my pack. It was necessary so she didn’t go rogue. I felt the connection snap into place, which meant I could now mind-link her. She calmed down, and I studied her. “So you were sharing your husband with his fated?” I asked her, and she nodded. “Wow, that was a messed up situation. I see why you came here,” I said, and she looked at me. “They would have killed him,” She said, defiant tone returning, and I nodded because I knew I was right. “I hope you will be in the mood for horse riding tomorrow,” I said and got up. “Where are you going?” She asked me, standing up too. “To sleep,” I told her, and her eyes looked like she was contemplating something. “Okay,” she said, but I knew those weren’t the words she wanted to speak. So I moved close to her until her back was against the wall. “Okay?” I said, and she swallowed and nodded. Her eyes were swollen from tears. She searched my eyes with them, trying to figure me out, and before she could speak, I kissed her neck where her husband’s mark once was and sucked gently. She moaned, unable to control herself, and Knight growled. “If I stay, I will take you, and you aren’t ready for that,” I told her and walked out of her room. It was hard as hell, but I knew it would be wrong to take advantage of a grieving woman. She needed time and space to accept her reality. I returned to my room, hard as hell, and went to the bathroom to work on myself. As I lay on my bed, I thought of Tamia and Leo’s story and realised she was the type to love deeply. Would she fall for me and love me the same if anything happened between us? Remembering what Susan did snapped me out of my fantasies. Women could not be trusted. I learned that the hard way, and I have been on my guard ever since

Chapter 15 ~Tamia~ Sylvester left me in the room, and I remained sad. The emptiness and confusion were gone. I was glad Sylvester was around to absorb me into his pack; this was my biggest fear of leaving Leo. I did not want to go rogue. Kaira was weak, and I knew we would never be at a hundred per cent again. I would have to train harder now, I doubted Sylvester would let me, but I will try. I wished he had remained and done what he wanted to do. I wanted comfort, and I was willing to do anything for it, but instead, he had to be a gentleman and walk away. I lay on my bed and re-read Leo’s letter. I could see it was a difficult situation for him. He had given me closure with his letter. I knew it

was best to write a letter to him to provide closure. I doubted Sylvester would let me send it, but I will try. I went to my vanity table and took a piece of paper and a pen to write. "Dear Leonardo, I received your letter, and I want you to know I am not angry. The fact that you are alive and well is rewarding enough. Thank you for the closure. It really means a lot. If it helps, I never blamed you for what happened to us. We were victims of fate, even Amanda. I know you have sworn never to replace me, but I beg you to give her her place. Both of you are expecting. Do not let my sacrifice be in vain, Leo. I have joined the Wolf Lord's pack, so my sanity is intact. Do not waste my gift to you. Live your life to the fullest and make the most of it. Shower your love and affection on Amanda and your children; they deserve it. Know that I am well, and the Wolf lord has been genuinely kind to all of us. If we ever meet again, I pray it is in good health and joy. You will always have a place in my heart. Love Tamia." I read the letter a couple of times before folding it. There were no envelopes in my room, but I was determined to give them to Sylvester to have them mailed in the morning. I did not know if he would take offence, but I will try. "I guess that chapter is closed," Kaira said as we lay on the bed. I could not give a definite answer because as long as we are all alive, no chapter is ever closed. I went for breakfast in the morning, wearing the sheer clothes in my wardrobe against Sylvester's warning. Avery and Marcel were kissing when I arrived, and I knew he would have fucked her on the table if he could. Linda was still reserved, but she was getting along with Theodore. Sylvester was yet to grace us with his presence, so I went to sit in my usual spot and wait. I greeted everyone present with the utmost respect, and Linda was the first to notice my mark was gone. She smiled at me, and I nodded. I was yet to adjust to being single. From how Avery looked, it was clear the two were together all night. I wondered when she would get tired of it. I couldn't blame her; from not getting any to being the centre of attention, it was expected behaviour. I hoped for her sake it would last because, even if she didn't want to admit it, she was falling in love. Sylvester walked in, and he had lipstick on the side of his cheek. I did not need to know who it belonged to. For the first time, it got to me. I composed myself and greeted him respectfully. He sat beside me when he picked up his napkin and angrily wiped away the mark on his cheek. I guess someone linked him to tell him. "How was your night?" he said, gently lifting my hand and kissing it. I had the urge to pull it away, but I controlled myself. "Peaceful," I replied, "Why are you annoyed?" He linked me for the first time, and I looked at him. He was too handsome for his own good. "I am not; I am just respecting myself," I replied, and he smiled and placed his hand on my bare thigh. "I have warned you not to dress in these outfits with other people around," He warned, and I smiled at him. "This suits my mood best," I replied, and he growled. He ran his hand up my thighs, and I felt tingles; then he kissed my neck and sucked gently. Was this guy

making out with me in public? I had never done this before, and I felt a bit shy. “People are here,” I linked him, and he sucked my sweet spot, forcing a moan out of me. “If you are comfortable with dressing provocatively in public, then this should be okay, he said and moved his hands closer to my pussy. I wasn’t wearing panties, and I knew I was wet. “Please,” I pleaded with him to leave me alone. “Next time I tell you to do something, you do it,” he said, got up and lifted me from my seat. Avery was smiling, and Linda looked away. He placed me over his shoulders and smacked me on the butt. “Obedience class 101,” he said, taking me out of place. “We haven’t eaten; I am hungry,” I said, protesting, and he smacked me again. I wanted to giggle because it was exciting, but I held it. People saw us, and they were most surprised. Even Lilly and her sidekicks came to the passage to see the commotion. Sylvester moved ahead until we got to my room. He opened the room and carried me in. He threw me on the bed, and I sat up and moved back until my back was against the bed rest. “I guess Lunas never had to be obedient, so this will be your first class,” he said and took off his shirt. His body was sculpted to perfection. His tattoos were beautiful, and the art went up his neck. His eyes were dark, and I was worried because it meant his wolf was involved. He got on the bed and came to me. “I let you be last night because you were grieving. But you had to push it,” he said and kissed the corner of my cheek. “I sense some jealousy, green eyes. Did it have anything to do with the lipstick on my cheek?” He asked, and I closed my eyes and turned my head to the side. “So I see,” he said and grazed his teeth along my neck. “Do you want to punish me for it?” he asked me, and I did not know what to say; my legs were already shaking. I had never experienced this kind of energy and boldness before. This was something new. He suddenly pulled away and got off the bed. It seemed he had a sudden change of heart. It was in his eyes. I was disappointed, but I tried not to let it show. “I will permanently change your wardrobe. No more sexy outfits for you,” he said and picked up his shirt. “Are you afraid I might turn you on, and you will lose control?” I asked with a daring tone, and he looked at me and smiled. “Green eyes, you are already mine,” he said, and I growled at him out of frustration. Kaira was at the forefront, and I knew he could see my wolf eyes too. It wasn’t okay to mess with people like this. “Be a good girl, and I will reward you,” he said with a smirk and left the room. He had disrupted my breakfast for nothing. He had also figured out the lipstick got to me. I got off the bed and decided to change my outfit. I wore shorts and a t-shirt. When I was done, I remembered the letter I wanted to mail to Leo, and I took it out of my dresser to head back to breakfast. To my surprise, Sylvester was there as if nothing had happened. I was mad at him, so I tried to sit next to Linda, but Theodore did not allow it, and he made me sit next to Sylvester. “Don’t you feel better?” He asked, and I did not bother to answer. I was angry. I ate quietly, and when we were done, he got up to leave, so I followed him. “Sylvester,” I



called in the hallway, and he turned to look at me. "I do not mean to abuse your hospitality or your kindness. Please do not see my request as an act of defiance or as taking you for granted," I said, and he frowned at me. I knew what I was about to ask him to do might not be welcomed. "Please help me mail this later to Leonardo. You can read its content. It poses no security threat. I am just asking him to move on." I said quickly, and his eyes darkened. He held my arm and made me follow him to his office. The moment the door was shut, he looked at me angrily. "Do not abuse the privilege, Tamia. No one is allowed to communicate with their loved ones here. That is precisely the point. I will not make exceptions for you," he said, and my heart broke a bit because I did not feel I was asking for too much. I just wanted to say goodbye. "Other trophies were actively given to you, so they said their goodbyes to their loved ones. He was unconscious when they took me away," I said with tears. "How am I sure it is not a secret code? How am I sure you are not giving him information about the north? About me?" He asked me, and I knew he wouldn't bend on this one. "I am sorry I asked. It won't happen again," I said, folded the letter, and put it in my pocket. "May I be excused?" I asked. "You did not answer my question," he said, and I took out the letter and handed it to him. "Read it and decide for yourself. I am sure you have code geniuses here; they can tell you if I am selling secrets or not," I said, and he opened the letter to read it. I could see shame in his eyes when he was through. I figured he had trust issues. "Very well, I will send it to him, but no more, and no one must know of this," he warned, and I nodded and thanked him. Whether I liked it or not, however kind he was and however comfortable the place was, I was still a prisoner of war. "Horse riding is in an hour; meet me at the stables." He said, and I nodded. I was grateful that he agreed to send the letter. I left his office and headed to my room. On my way, I bumped into the annoying Lilly and her friends. She was behaving like a child. "Alpha couldn't stand seeing your hideous body, so he told you to cover up," she teased, looking at what I was wearing and ignoring the fact that they were his clothes. I tried to walk away, but they blocked me. I really wasn't in the mood for this. "I sent you a message on his cheek this morning. Did you get it?" She asked me, and I did not respond. "Do you want to know how it got there?" She asked, and I heard a growl behind me. I did not need to guess who it was. "Lilly! in my office now!" Sylvester growled, and I started walking away quickly. I did not want to imagine what they would do there together. After what happened with Leo, I should have had a thick skin, but Sylvester got to me. I did not know why but he got to me. I moved quickly into my room and felt jealous over him for the first time. I knew I was grieving, but I could not understand why he always controlled himself around me. It made me feel unattractive. It should be the least of my worries, but I was petty like that, thanks to the fact that I had nothing to do and I sat in a castle idle all day. Once it was time to meet him

at the stables, I headed there. I hoped to see many people, but it was just him and two horses. He walked to me smiling. He was all decked up and ready. He handed me what to wear, and I thanked him. I was still mad about Lilly, but I kept it to myself. I might end up punishing him for it. "Do you know how to ride?" he asked me, and as much as I tried to get my mind out of the gutter with that question, my mind was rolling in it. "Of course," I said, and he laughed, knowing exactly what I meant. See u tomorrow.

Chapter 16 ~Tamia~ Sylvester looked handsome, laughing, and I wanted to tell him to laugh more, but it wasn't in my place. "Of course I know you can ride, Green-eyes. I meant the horse." He said, and I smiled at him. "Not an expert, but I can survive," I confessed, and he smiled. I wore the necessary gear and mounted the horse. Sylvester went ahead, and I followed him. The land was beautiful, and I felt a rush I hadn't felt in a while as we raced the horses through the land. With the way he was riding, he was heading somewhere. We finally got to a cliff where the alpines were visible, and the sight was beautiful. The snow-covered mountains were a sight, and Sylvester unmounted his horse. I did the same, and he secured them by the only tree on the cliff. "What do you think?" He asked, pointing to the mountains in the distance, and I smiled. "They are beautiful. The mountains back home aren't this beautiful," I confessed, and he smiled at me. The breeze brushed his hair, and he looked breathtaking. "I felt you have been couped up in the estate for long; I thought this would help," he said to me, and I was stunned at the gesture. However insignificant he tried to make it seem, the fact remains that he did this for me. "Thank you, it is beautiful," I said, and then he came to me and cupped my face in his palms. "Not as beautiful as you are," he said, and I was stunned by his confession. He smiled and looked away. Those words were hard for him to say, but he said them anyway, and there was no taking it back; I appreciated it. "Thank you," I said with a breathy voice, and he smiled. He stood beside me and looked ahead. "I have sent the letter," He said, and I looked at him. I knew it was difficult for him, but I was grateful he did it. "Other than Leo, did you date anyone?" He asked me, and I shook my head. "No, he was my first," I confessed, and he looked at me and smiled. "As beautiful as you are. I thought you would have a long list," He said, and I smiled. "Well, I did not have the opportunity for that. We started dating when I was seventeen and married when I was nineteen." I said. "I see. That explains a lot," He said and gently touched my hand. "Do you want to sit on the cliff?" He asked, and I was scared. "Goddess, no, not with a weakened wolf," I said, and he nodded. "I felt it when you joined my pack. Your wolf isn't so strong anymore," he said out of concern, and I nodded. "I just need a bit of training to adjust. Brains beat brawn any day," I said, and we laughed. "Sure, you can

train with me,” he said, and I was stunned. “Are you sure?” I asked him, and he nodded. “I wouldn’t want anyone taking liberties with you and touching you,” he said, sounding possessive. I laughed; he looked at me while I tried to stop laughing, surprised me and arrested my lips with his. His kiss was gentle and warm. He tasted sweet and warm. I did not hesitate to respond and grabbed onto his neck. My response wasn’t patient, like his. It was hungry and expectant. He wrapped his arms around my waist and pulled me to his body. Then he broke the kiss and looked at me. “I can’t make you promises, Tamia,” he confessed, and I nodded. “I know,” I said, and he broke away from me. “Let’s head back,” He said, and I felt disappointed. Why didn’t he want to touch me? I was ready to go all the way with him. Couldn’t he see it? I mounted the horse and followed him, angry and disappointed. He was playing with my emotions, and I did not like it. We rode until we got to the stables. He secured the horses, and we started walking back to the estate as he had put it. To me, it was a castle. “I noticed that the other Lunas before us are allowed to socialise and mingle. I learned some of them even date and find love here,” I told him, and he stopped walking. I could sense the fury radiating from him. I wanted to know why we were special. A luna had told me they usually split the lunas among themselves as spoils of war. It was a way of ultimately conquering the Alphas to whom the Lunas belonged. Although they never touched them, they owned them. My friends and I got a different treatment, and I did not know why. One day I will ask him if I ever get the chance. “You are not allowed that,” he said without hearing what I had to say. “Then what am I allowed? I am a woman, and I have needs,” I said, and he shook his head. “Then you come to me,” he said with a low growl, and I searched his eyes to see if he was joking, but he wasn’t. He was serious. His wolf flashed in those moments. “I want you tonight,” I said, blurting it out boldly, and he looked at me critically and pulled me close. “You are still not over him yet. I can’t be a rebound,” He said, and I was stunned. “Who said you are a rebound?” I asked him, and he smiled. He kissed the corner of my lips, released me and walked away. He had stylishly refused my invitation. I was furious, angry, name it. I felt everything. I felt inadequate. What did Lilly have that I did not? I was mad. “He is arrogant,” Kaira growled as we walked back to the castle, sexually frustrated. I walked to my room and headed straight for the bath. Touching myself would have to suffice. I wore shorts and a t-shirt and headed for dinner. He had sent me his clothes. I wondered why he didn’t send someone to just buy me new ones. Instead, he wanted me walking about in his oversized clothes. I did not dry my hair, so it was wet. I met Linda and Theodore there; I did not need to guess why Avery and Marcel weren’t there. I noticed Linda wasn’t in a good mood, so I linked her to find out her problem. “Some bitches gave me a hard time because of him. I suspect he is screwing them, but he refuses to admit it. Not that I care, but I should know,” She said, and I realised she had

her version of Lilly. Marcel finally arrived with Avery, and the food was served. I wondered where Sylvester was. "The Alpha wouldn't be joining us; he is working on something with Lilly," he said, and I felt a pain in my chest. That was why he turned down my invitation. I was furious. I composed myself and tried to eat without showing emotions. After the meal, Avery tried to make me stay to hang out, but I was fighting tears, so I just walked away. I would apologise to her when I am better, but I just needed space now. I entered my room, and I wished it had a lock. "We should barge in on them," Kaira said, ready to do damage. "He is not ours, Kaira, and he has not made his intentions known. We will only be making fools of ourselves." I told my wolf, and she was silent. I went to bed with a broken heart. Morning came, and I did not go for breakfast. "Tamia, why aren't you in the dining room?" I heard Sylvester's voice in my head, and I was tempted to growl, but I composed myself. "I am not hungry," I said, and he was silent. "Regardless, you should eat. Training starts by nine; that is an order," he said. I growled and got up. I decided to wear a sheer outfit instead of his clothes this time. I was glad he had not cleared my wardrobe as he had threatened. I arrived at the dining room, and Avery smiled, but Sylvester was mad. I went to sit next to him and greeted everyone with the utmost respect, then served my food. "What do you think you are doing dressed like that?" He asked me, almost growling. "I do not think it is wise I walk around in your clothes, Alpha; it will send the wrong message. I do not want Lilly's trouble," I said, and his anger dissipated. He was silent, and I ate breakfast. For the first time, I requested to be served wine. It was out of character and too early, but my nerves were all over the place, and I knew I had pissed Sylvester off. I needed to calm down. He did not utter a word throughout my display, and when the breakfast was over, he left. "You shouldn't push him, Tamia. He has made a lot of exceptions for you," Marcel warned me, and I was quiet. What did he know about being pushed? Avery looked at me, feeling sorry for me. I felt sorry for myself. Being brave with Sylvester was pointless; I just broke down and cried. Theodore and Marcel excused us while Linda and Avery remained. "What is the matter?" Avery asked. "You usually have your shit together, but you are losing yourself," Avery said, and I nodded in agreement. I did not understand what was happening to me. "Remember, we are prisoners here, Tamia. They could get bored and kick us to the curb. As nice as they may be, we aren't free here. Please do not aggravate the Alpha." Linda pleaded with me, afraid of what would happen if Sylvester got mad and changed his mind. Being victims of severe abuse, I could understand their fear and her willingness to settle for less. Anything was better than where they were coming from, but I couldn't relate, and my heart and emotions were all over the place. I wiped away my tears for their sake. "I will try," I said, and they thanked me. I returned to my room to change my clothes. And then, I went to join Sylvester in the training room. He was the only one

there, and he was punching a bag. It seemed ordinary until I realised it was coated in silver; I looked around and noticed that most things were covered in silver. I realised why they were very strong. If they trained with silver, then an actual battle would be easy. Remembering what my friends pleaded with me to do, I chose to be on my best behaviour. "I am sorry I wore that dress to breakfast; it won't happen again, Alpha," I said, and he punched the bag hard. I wonder what I said that made him angry. He turned to look at me, his hair was wet with sweat, and his muscles flexed. I tried to ignore his body and his face altogether. "What are you doing here?" He asked me, a bit angry, and I swallowed. I guess I had pissed him off really good. "To train," I said with uncertainty. "No training today, and you can wear your sheer clothes henceforth," He said and turned back to continue what he was doing. I felt insulted, but he had put me in my place, which Avery and Linda feared. What was the matter with him? What was he afraid of? I did not want to trouble him any more than I had, so I gave up. "I am sorry to disturb you. I will take my leave," I said and turned around. As I was leaving, I heard Sylvester growl loudly and punch the bag hard. I walked quickly to create the desired distance between us. I did not want to be in the punching bag's shoes. I left the place feeling foolish and stupid. I decided to go to my room and sleep the rest of the day. I did not want to stay awake, so I won't think about what had just happened. Maybe I will wake up, and it will all be a bad dream. I told the servant at my door to bring me the strongest drink they had, anything to knock me out, and she smiled and went to fetch me something. She was yet to know that my privileges had been revoked. I might as well abuse it one last time before it is official. She returned with a bottle with a vodka label filled with a green-looking drink. I thought it would taste awful, but it was delicious. I went through half the bottle and started feeling funny. I had an out-of-body experience, and soon I wasn't in control of myself anymore because I could not coordinate myself, and everything went blank. I woke with a banging headache and saw Sylvester sitting on the couch, looking concerned. I was in his room.

Chapter 17 ~Tamia~ I got off the bed and looked at Sylvester. He was worried, and then, his emotions faded. I looked out the window; it was nighttime. I tried to get off the bed and realised I was naked. I did not know what to say. Instead, I wrapped the sheet around my body and got off the bed, ready to leave. "Where do you think you are going?" He asked me, and I could not look at him. "My room," I said with uncertainty. "The room you trashed, vomited all over the place and tried to jump out of the window?" He asked me, and my eyes bulged. "What!" I exclaimed. "You have been out for hours, Tamia?"

Why were you so reckless? Who gave you the northern cocktail?" he asked, and I knew if I gave the person up, she would be in trouble. "I was the one that asked for the strongest drink there is," I said quickly. "Why?" He asked me. "I had nothing to do, I was hoping I would train with you, but you said no. I just wanted to sleep the rest of the day through," I said, and he sighed. "Why were you acting up yesterday morning?" He asked me with a calm tone. "I thought you were luna. Lunas are known for being calm through anything. You acted like a child," he said, and I nodded. "I agree, and it won't happen again. Besides, I am no longer a luna. I do not have a reason to keep my shit together," I said. "You haven't answered my question yet," he told me, and I sighed. "It is childish and insignificant. It won't happen again. I promise," I said, and he stood up and walked to me. I did not know my hands were shaking until he held them in his and gently unwrapped the sheets off my body. "There is nothing between Lilly and me, Tamia. I have never touched her. She is good with computers, and she is helping with something. That is why she comes to my office and sometimes my room. I do not sleep with women in the harem. It would help if you stopped acting up and being jealous. The only reason I haven't touched you is that I think you need to get over Leonardo. If you want to be with me, it should be because you want me, not because you want to fill a void. I didn't let you train with me because I was angry," he said, and I was stunned as I looked into his eyes. I did not know I was crying until tears rolled down my cheeks. They were tears of relief. "Since you have proven to me that you are a child and need to be cared for and watched, you sleep in my room henceforth," he told me and led me to the bathroom. "Let's get you cleaned up," he said, and I was still stunned. He ran a warm bath and asked me to get inside the tub. He lathered the sponge and washed my body. I was stunned by the care and gentleness. It was amazing. After he was done, I exited the bath, and he gave me an oversized t-shirt. Then he led me to bed. I was speechless. I was misbehaving and thinking all my privileges had been revoked, but I was wrong. "Do not act like that again," he said, lying behind and spooning me. He kissed my neck and nibbled my ears; instead of a giggle, a moan escaped my lips, and he held me tighter. "You need to sleep some more. It will ease the headache. Always confront me about what you think. I can never treat you like the others, Tamia. You are special." He said and rested his arms around my waist. "Then make love to me," I managed. "Not tonight, green-eyes. Tonight, we sleep," he said, and with that, he turned me down again. Morning came, and we got ready for breakfast together. I could not believe what was happening. As we walked down the hall, people looked at us, and then Lilly approached us and bowed her head. "Good morning, Alpha," She said, and he responded gently. "Good morning Lilly," He said, and she looked up and smiled at me. "What time do you need me to come, Alpha?" She said, trying to insinuate it was for sex. "Did you greet Tamia?" Sylvester asked her,

and she shook her head. "You should accord her the same respect," He said, and I was shocked, but I composed myself. "Good morning, Ms. Tamia," she said, acknowledging that I had no mark and wasn't a luna anymore. "Good morning, Lilly," I said, and she smiled at me. "Good," Sylvester said. "I learned you go about giving people the impression that we are screwing," he said, confronting her, and she looked stunned as if it were a lie. "I do not want to hear such nonsense again. And I am revoking all your privileges. I treated you like a little sister, and you abused that privilege. Pretending to be excited and hugging me so you can kiss my cheek and leave lipstick on it. That was very dubious. It will be in your best interest to tell your friends the truth. Your computer services are no longer required. Henceforth you are not allowed in my office or my bedroom. Am I clear?" he asked, and she bowed. I honestly couldn't believe what had just happened. When he told me he wasn't sleeping with her, I thought he was lying and telling me what I wanted to hear. Now I knew better. We left her and headed for the dining room. So much for having the Alpha's ears. What a joke. My mood was lifted instantly. I felt sorry for her because she tried to live her fantasies aloud. We entered the dining room and went to sit on our chairs; Avery and Linda looked at me funny. "What were you on yesterday afternoon? You wanted to jump out the window, Tamia. You made Alpha make a lot of promises before getting you out the window," Avery linked me, and I looked at Sylvester. "Did I make you promise me anything yesterday?" I asked, and he smiled at me? "You didn't; your wolf did, and you don't want to know. Let's just leave it alone." He told me and served my food; I shook my head. "Please tell me," I said, and Marcel laughed. "You should tell her," he told Sylvester, and Sylvester looked at me and smiled. "Are you sure you want to know what Kaira said under the influence?" He asked, and I nodded. "They called me that you were standing at the window of your room. We all rushed to your room and saw that you had trashed the place. There was also vomit everywhere. I saw the bottle of northern cocktail, and I panicked because you had drunk more than the required amount. When Kaira saw me, she began to cry. She called me an asshole and scumbag; name it. She said I was a bully, and I was playing with both of you. She asked me if there was a reason I did not find you fuckable. She used that word. She compared you to Lilly then she said both of you would be running away by jumping out the window." He paused, and I was already ashamed. I tried to reach Kaira, but she refused to respond. "I pleaded with you not to jump, and she told me she won't if I promise to do you all night long until morning and then some more, and the rest of the things she said were incoherent. I doubt she was even processing what I was telling her because the moment I reached her and took her away from the window, she passed out in my arms. You shouldn't leave your wolf in charge like that again. They are always brutally honest and don't pretend," He said, and I bowed in shame. I suspected something

was off about that drink. I knew something was wrong when I started feeling woozy and having an out-of-body experience. I was glad Sylvester came for me and not just anyone. Eventually, we made light of the situation, and we all laughed and joked about it. Soon breakfast was over, and Sylvester asked me to join him for training. I dreaded going to that room after seeing the amount of silver that was in it, but I humoured him and followed. I did not know how physically weak I had become until I trained with Sylvester. I felt terrible about it, but he calmed me down. He told me not to worry about it, but it troubled my soul. After the training, Sylvester and I showered together, and he said he had something planned out for us. He led me to the eastern garden of the estate, and there, a small picnic was planned for us. There were people in the garden, especially women from the harem, but no one came near us. "Wow, Sylvester, this is amazing," I said, thrilled by what I saw. It was a bit chilly outside, but I appreciated it. We sat on the mat, and he bought out a thermos and poured hot chocolate into a mug for me. To my surprise, he poured tinny marshmallows on the top. "How did you know?" I asked him, and he smiled. "Let us just say someone gave me tips on how to woo you," He said, and I knew who that was; for the first time, thinking of Leo did not make me sad; I smiled, grateful for his effort. Sylvester moved closer to me and kissed me. I knew the ladies present could see us, and I grabbed onto his head and kissed him harder, showing ownership and staking my claim. We broke the kiss, and he laughed. "You want them to know," He said, knowing what I did. "You can't blame me, Alpha," I said, and he smiled. We stayed there a bit, and I gathered the courage to ask him why he chose me. He looked at me and smiled, then lifted my hands and kissed them. "It is our tradition in the north to split the lunas of the packs we conquered among the first three officials. In my father's time, they would sleep with them, owning them completely to show they had conquered and dominated the alphas to whom the lunas are tied, but in my time, the three of us usually split them among ourselves and assigned duties to them. I do not think sleeping with a woman against her will just to prove I have conquered her husband is humane." He said, and I was stunned by the barbaric practice of the ones before him. He was different. "Why didn't you assign a duty to me?" I asked him, and he lovingly tucked my loose strands behind my ear and looked into my eyes. "I was smitten by you, Tamia. I can't explain, but you made my heart beat faster than usual, and I knew something was there. My wolf wanted you, and he staked his claim before I could process the feeling," He said gently and leaned closer to kiss me. His kiss was comforting and reassuring. I realised he was falling just as fast as I was. "You won't be a rebound, Sylvester," I linked him, and his kiss became more hungry. He travelled to my neck and sucked the sweet spot. I wanted him to sink his teeth in; he sucked hard and grazed his teeth on the spot, making me dizzy and turning me into a moaning mess. Gradually he stopped and pulled



away. "Soon," he told me, and if we were alone at that moment, I wouldn't have taken soon for an answer; I would have gone on a ride, and he knew it. He laughed, showing his perfect dentition and pulled me close while we enjoyed the scenery together. We stayed there until sunset, then returned to the house for dinner. Besides the training session, it was the best day I had had in a long time. I hope Sylvester will complete the experience and make love to me. It was overdue. He knew I wanted him, and I knew he wanted me. There was no point holding back. The wooing was complete.

Chapter 18 ~Sylvester~ There was no disputing the fact that there was chemistry between Tamia and me. As I got to know her more, I realised she was genuinely innocent. It was hard taking my heart out of the equation. Although nothing had transpired between us, she was claiming my heart, and there was nothing I could do about it. That was precisely why I refused to touch her. I did not know how it would end, and neither of us needed to get hurt the second time. So I walked away every time she created an opportunity for me. After she boldly invited me into her room, I realised I couldn't put it off any longer. It was unfortunate how it all began, and the reason why I brought the three of them here was cruel. It was safe to say that I was looking out for my people, but it was no longer about keeping my enemies close; it was now a matter of the heart. After reading Leonardo's letter, I realised attacking his pack was wrong. He wasn't a part of it. Going horse riding was a great move to get to know Tamia better, but I had to step back when she took the giant leap. Now I was willing to jump. Holding her in my arms in the garden felt new. I haven't been relaxed in a long time. When Kaira went on a rampage, I realised her feelings were genuine and had nothing to do with survival. As crude as it was and as crazy as it seemed, Kaira had said everything Tamia could not say. When I carried her to my room, I knew this was it. It all happened fast, and I realised fate had blessed me with her. We left the garden when it was dark, to have dinner. Tamia tried to get us to go to the room first, but I refused. I knew what she wanted and would not have the will to say no. I knew I was postponing the inevitable since we both slept in the same room together. We entered the dining together, and I noticed that Marcel and Avery weren't all over each other as usual. I hoped for all our sakes they weren't fighting because I wanted my Beta at his best all the time. Marcel had jumped before Theodore and me. Even though he denied it, I knew his heart was invested in it. No one asked us to get involved with these women, or fall in love with them. It just happened naturally. Theodore had his eyes on Linda from the moment they arrived, and he had the most difficulty. She kept asking him

to assign her a duty as he should and that she wasn't interested in getting emotionally involved with anyone. Of the three, she was the most used and abused, and I could understand why she was guarded. Theodore was the patient type, taking it a step at a time, and I could see he was making progress. "What is the matter, Ave?" I heard Tamia say. She could have as well linked her friends, but I figured she sensed something was wrong, and she wanted to address it. "Never mind," Avery said, and Marcel looked worried. I had to link him to find out what the issue was. "What happened?" I asked, and he sighed. "She found out about my secret harem," he confessed to me, and I was stunned. "I thought you let them go?" I linked him, remembering we had chosen to disband our harems three years ago. "I do not visit all of them, but I continued seeing Maurine. I wanted to end it, but the woman won't let me." He said, and I was disappointed in him. Maurine wasn't a good person, and she had caused more troubles than I could remember when they were in the estate. "What the fuck!" I said to my Beta aloud, and he bowed his head. "So why is Avery mad? It has to be more than that." I said, knowing Avery was too tough to be mad about a lover that refused to go away. "I have ended it, and then she got into Avery's head about this being a norm. She told her we usually split the lunas among ourselves and sleep with them to get information about their husbands and former packs so we can attack them," He said, and I was pissed off and worried. Avery was Tamia's friend. If she tells Tamia this, Kaira will be mad. Tamia might pretend, but I know her wolf won't. "How the fuck did she get into the estate?" I asked him, and he bowed his head. "She didn't. I took Avery to town, and we met in a store," He said, and I did not know what to tell him. He wasn't supposed to take any of the newcomers off the property. Why will he take Avery to town? I did not want to create an issue, so I let it rest. "You need to fix it," I told him, and he nodded. We ate dinner in silence, and the atmosphere was a bit glum, but my heart wasn't. My hands were on Tamia's thigh, and I couldn't wait to go to bed. "Alpha, there is an attack on the north gate, southern soldiers," one of my warriors told me through the mind link, and I stood up abruptly. "What is the matter?" Tamia asked me, looking worried. "I need you to stay indoors. There is an attack on the north gate, and we must defend ourselves," I told her, and her eyes darkened. "You do not have a lot of warriors on the estate," She said, and I wondered how she knew. "I pay attention, Sylvester. I was a luna remember?" She said, and I sighed. "We can take them," I said, and she grabbed me and kissed me. "We still have a lot to do. Come back in one piece," She ordered me, and I smiled. Marcel, Theodore and I headed out. There was a commotion in the passage; the residents were being taken to safety. I had about fifty men in the estate. I am sure we could take them. I did not need to know who sent the attackers. I was sure it was Bane's handwork. We headed there, and the men were plenty. Knight took over, and we shifted. The attackers

had torn down the northern gate, and they were many. How did they get warriors here so fast? There was no way they were all from the south. I sensed eastern soldiers were among them. Knowing the south and east had an alliance, there was no doubt that the eastern soldiers were among the herd. They came at me like mad wolves, and I unleashed my anger on them. I was angry that they disrupted a peaceful night. I had saved up my energy to keep my promise to Kaira, now I had to use it on them. Knight was angry. Why wouldn't they just leave us alone? I hit the wolf that leapt at me and knocked it away with so much force that it flew sideways. We were winning, and most of the attackers died. We had injured a lot of them, and I could only see a few standing; then, they released a weird green gas. It was sudden. Some of us managed to step away from it, but Knight had inhaled it, making Knight weak. "Poison, fall back," I linked my wolves. The green gas cleared, but we were too weak to continue. The remaining wolves, about sixteen, came at us, and Knight whimpered, stepping back. My vision was blurred, and I couldn't see much. I realised the gas was their last resort. We had injured and killed most of them, and we were still many compared to them. But our numbers did not matter because we were weakened by the weird green gas. I felt my body healing from the gas, but it wasn't healing fast enough for me to fight back. The wolves coming at me were most likely kappas, and they were the worst, because they were the deadly warriors in a pack. They were trained to die with their enemies. Knight growled, making a weak attempt to show dominance, but the wolves approaching could not be fooled. They knew we were weak, and they were taking advantage of it. Some of my warriors had collapsed from poisoning. I could feel them, so I knew they would be okay. A black kappa wolf lunged at me, and a grey delta wolf came from nowhere and knocked it out of the way. The grey wolf growled at the attackers, and I saw two more delta wolves, one brown and the other white, jumping into the fight. When I realised who the grey wolf was, I panicked. The fight continued, and I joined in, but the new additions were holding their own perfectly well; even in their weakened state, they were good. The white and brown wolves fought like mad wolves. They had a lot of pent-up anger, and they were unleashing it on the attackers. The grey wolf was skilful and fast. They did not have the strength the attackers had, but they had tactics, and it paid out. I watched Kaira skilfully tear down her opponents, and I realised why Leo couldn't let go. She was a true Luna. A true equal for an Alpha. The intervention made the poison possible to dissipate in our systems. We joined back in full and finished off the remaining wolves. It was a narrow victory. Who would have guessed they would fight dirty? We took some of the injured enemy wolves for interrogation. I shifted back to my human form. Kaira came to nuzzle me before she shifted back to the very tired Tamia. "Why didn't you stay back?" I asked her, and carried her bridal style into the house. We were both naked, but it did not matter. "We couldn't

leave all the fun for you guys. We were watching the fight from the balcony facing the northern gate. It takes a while to recover from the green gas, you know.” She said, and I realised she had leapt from the balcony. That was why she had the force needed to knock the attacking wolf out of the way. “Do not do that again. You scared me.” I said, and she giggled. “You should see me in full capacity,” She teased, and my heart broke a bit for her. Her marriage to Leo left her with a weak wolf and a broken heart. I hope to do better. I hope to give more than I take from her. I took her straight to the room and wore my shorts. “Where are you going?” She asked me, wearing my bathrobe. “I need to ensure they didn’t take anything and everyone is alright. I promise to come back immediately,” I said and kissed her. She released me, and I rushed to the west wing, where we interrogated prisoners. I reached there and found Marcel and Theodore already attending to the prisoners. “Who sent them?” I asked, and Marcel looked at me. “Bane,” He said, and I knew there was more to it. “He sent them to bring Tamia to him.” He finished, and I was stunned at why Bane would risk a war for her sake. As much as I wanted to say Leo helped him, I doubted Leo was a part of this, but we needed to send a warning message to the east never to pull this stunt again. Somehow, I will find a way to question Leonardo. I needed to know why Bane would want to risk a war for Tamia’s sake.

Chapter 19 ~Tamia~ I showered and waited for Sylvester to return. I was nervous and excited at the same time. Glad that I was able to test my skills. During the fight, I was given a rush, I missed it so much, and I was glad I was of service. I doubt the attackers would have won, but they would have caused much damage. I linked with my friends to find out how they were, and they were thrilled to fight. I knew Linda and Avery used the opportunity to vent their frustrations on the men. Some of those wolves smelled like they were from the east. I wondered why my people would want to create more trouble with the north. Sylvester returned and went to shower. He exited the bathroom, and I noticed he looked a bit worried, but I could not ask him why. I got off the bed and went to him. “Sylvester,” I said, and without warning, he crashed his lips against mine. We kissed hungrily, and I knew something was bothering him in those moments. “What is the matter?” I asked. “Don’t jump from balconies again. Do not get into fights in your current state. Promise me you won’t do it again,” he said, and I could hear the fear in his voice. “I had to..” I said, and he cupped my face in his palms. “Please,” He said, and I knew he must have heard something that upset him. “Okay,” I said to calm him down, but I was determined to find out what the matter was later. He hugged me and kissed my neck, and breathed me in. I let him and relaxed in his embrace. Sylvester held me tightly through

the night. Morning came, and we got ready for breakfast. I wondered what troubled him, and hoped he would tell me. "Do you know Bane personally?" He finally asked while we were getting dressed. I stopped what I was doing. "Yes, I met him at a dance party, and he asked his beta to take me home. I never saw or heard from him since." I said, and he frowned. "Anything transpired between you two?" he asked, and I shook my head. "Nothing, not even a kiss," I said, and I saw relief in his eyes. He pulled me close and kissed me, holding me tightly. I felt his teeth on my sweet spot. Was he trying to claim me? I knew something was troubling him. We left the room and headed towards the dining to eat breakfast. "Do you want to eat in the room?" Sylvester asked me while we walked. I looked at him and smiled. "I am hungry for other things", I confessed, and he grinned and spun me around. It was so fast that I almost fell, but he caught me, and we laughed. "We will feed our stomachs this morning and do other things later. I want to spend the day with you," He said and kissed me on the lips. I grumbled, knowing that was a subtle no. We returned to the room, and food was brought for us. Sylvester served the food on my plate, and we both ate. I hoped he would go the extra mile soon because it was overdue. "Tel me about your last days with your ex-husband," He said, and to my surprise, I wasn't sad about it. There was a time if I was asked that question; I would be a wreck, but my heart was elsewhere, and I knew it. "Not so great, but he tried. He tried all he could to make it work. Amanda was an Alpha's daughter, so even though Leo wanted to ignore her, he couldn't. They forced her into our home," I said, remembering the incident. "Did they force Leo into her bed?" He asked me, sounding a bit annoyed, and I knew it was because he knew it hurt me. The answer was obvious when I couldn't speak. He touched my hands gently and kissed them. "Fate might have sent her his way, but he could have rejected her. He was weak, which destroyed your marriage," he said, convinced by his words, and I sighed. "I guess so," I said, and he smiled. "So what is with Bane?" He asked me, and I could sense jealousy in his voice, but I did not want to mess with him, so I opted to be honest. "Nothing. I told you all that I know?" I said, and he nodded. He held my hand and kissed it, then looked at me critically. "If he comes to get you, will you follow him?" he asked me, and somehow I felt he was asking the real question that bugged him. "I do not know him well enough to follow him anywhere. Besides, I have no reason to leave unless you kick me out," I said, and I could see him relax a bit. I hoped he would tell me what was troubling him soon. "What about you? Anyone special from your past or was it always orgies all through?" I teased him, and he laughed. He plucked a grape and gently placed it in my mouth; I made sure to suck his finger sensually, and he slowly pulled away; his eyes turned black, meaning his wolf liked it. "You are a naughty woman, Tamia," he said, and I giggled. "There was someone. Her name was Susan. She was my first," He said, and I felt a tinge of jealousy. My

feelings for him were dangerous because I was getting jealous of an ex that wasn't even in the picture. I think it was the way he said her name. I couldn't place it. "Relax, Tamia," He said, and my cheeks coloured; how did he know? "How?" I asked, and he giggled. "Your wolf flashed," he said, laughing and leaning closer to me. "I think it is cute that you are feeling possessive," he said close to me, holding my chin in his hands and gazing into my eyes. "I think it is sexy," He said, and I could not hold his gaze. I was shy all of a sudden. I was bold with everything but a shy mess with him. He leaned close and kissed me gently on the lips. Then broke away before I could take it up a notch. "Don't worry, green eyes. I won't make you share," he assured me, and as much as I wanted to believe those words, I was too afraid to be invested in it. I was determined to live in the moment, ready to head out if it went south. My heart was tough enough for it now. The servants came to gather the dishes, and Sylvester told them to leave the fruits and the dessert. "You haven't told me about Susan," I said, and he pulled me close. We were sitting on the carpet with the bed as our backrest. The rug was fluffy and soft, and the lights were dimmed. Perfect for a mood Sylvester wasn't ready to tune into. "She was a year younger than me, and we planned to have a future. Being the Alpha in my family, she knew I would want to be at my strongest. But she was enough for me. She was a beta breed. She was enough. Her brother found his fated, and it wasn't his girlfriend. The heart break the girlfriend endured spooked her, and she decided to relocate to the south region with her uncle before my eighteenth birthday, so she would not be heartbroken if she ended up not being my fated. I never heard from her since," He said, and I felt sorry for him. There was a tinge of sadness in his voice that made me realise it hurt him deeply. "With the way we were, I would have rejected my fated for her sake," he said, and I smiled. "Easier said than done," I said, looking away, then he made me look at him. "I know you have heard those words before, and the person that uttered them went back on his words, but I am not like Leo. If I were in his shoes, I would have willingly kept my word and been content with half-strength. All it meant was that I would have to train harder." He said with a firm resolve, and I could almost believe him, but I wasn't a fool. "Unfortunately, she left for nothing because I never found my fated, and I had to make do," he said, and I stroked his hair and looked into his eyes. "The pain is undescribable. I could understand her fear," I said, remembering what happened to me, and he kissed me. This time he did not pull away. We kissed, and soon I heard Kaira howl in my head when he took off my shirt. His eyes were jet black, and I tore his shirt because I couldn't undo his buttons. I touched his body. The muscles I had longed to run my palm against. Feeling his muscles made my core clench, and a moan escaped my lips. His scent was intoxicating, and I wanted him. We kissed until we were both naked on the carpet. I heard a low growl, and his body vibrated. His wolf had joined in. He lifted me up and placed me on the bed. "I

have been wanting to do this since I set my eyes on you,” He said, laying me on the bed. I grabbed onto him. I did not want any distance between us. My body was aching. “I want to take my time,” He whispered in my ears and nibbled it. Then he licked and sucked the skin where a mark should be. He teased the spot with his teeth, and I moaned. I felt the wetness on my inner thigh, and I was long gone. He travelled to the crook of my neck, sucking and nibbling, and I was a moaning mess on the bed. I ran my fingers through his hair, grabbing it and wanting more. I could not explain my hunger and need for him, but I wanted him. He sucked on my nipples, one at a time, hungrily, and I let him do as he liked with them. Everything was getting to my head. “Ahhh!” I moaned, not able to contain the pleasure I was feeling. I reached for his cock, and he let me touch it. It felt hard and stiff, and I wanted it badly, and he pulled away from my breasts so I could feel him. He knelt on the bed with his length in my hand. His eyes filled with lust, and I mirrored it. I bent and placed his cock in my mouth, hungrily working on him. He grabbed my head gently while I bobbed my head up and down his length. He groaned and moaned and pumped gently into my mouth. He has enormous, So I held his shaft with my hand. Working on it. Taking it all the way to the back of my throat and gagging. My eyes were watering, but all I could think about was the pleasure it would give me when it filled me up. He pumped, and I bobbed. His hold on my hair became tight, and I knew he was coming. “Fuck! Tamia,” He growled. “Fuck!” he moaned and continued pumping until I felt his cock twitch, and he shot his load down my throat. I took it all in, sucking the tip and licking my lips for him to see. “Fuck, Tamia, you are amazing,” He said. Leaving his length, I looked at him, and his black eyes were intimidating. I had taken him off the bend, and my core clenched, anticipating receiving the result of my hard work. He laid me down and spread my legs wide. “Time for dessert,” he said, and I could not speak. He delved in with his mouth. Sticking his tongue in my core, I grabbed my breasts and squeezed. The pleasure shot to my head. He licked the entrance all the way up to my mound and then began to suck it. “Ahhh ahhh!” I cried. My mound was sensitive, and he was sucking on it, pushing his tongue against it and licking it. He licked and sucked until I couldn’t take anymore. I felt myself coming. I grabbed his shoulders and dug my nails in. I was wild, and my animal side was taking over. “I am coming,” I moaned. The build-up was fast. He was an expert with his tongue. He did not relent. He kept the rhythm steady until the orgasm erupted, and I cried. He didn’t stop. He continued to suck. I shook and moaned then I started to scream from the intense pleasure. “Now, Sylvester. Put it in now,” I moaned because I wanted him inside me. He stopped and made me turn around on my hands and knees. He drove his cock into me and started pumping. Holding my hips, he guided my ass to slam into him. His cock went deep, stretching my walls and hitting all the right spots. He filled me up, and I felt this was my birthday because he was

too damn good at it; he fucked me with reckless abandon. All my build-up and anticipation were satisfied at that moment. “Mine,” I heard him growl as he pumped into me. “Yes,” Was all I could say. He was doing everything right. Claiming me with his cock, I knew there was no going back from this. He turned me around, placed my legs over his shoulders, and pumped into me ferociously. “No one is taking you from me,” He growled, pumping fast and steady. I didn’t see any more. I felt the build-up, and I knew he had just started. My orgasm came, and he fucked me through it, sustaining it. He did not stop. He pumped into me, shattering my inside and making me confess to things I wouldn’t have. I saw stars, having an out-of-body experience, and I did not want to come down from the heights. He had taken me completely. “Promise you will always be mine, no matter what,” He groaned, and I did not think about it. He had fucked my brain to mush. “Yes, yes!” That was all I could manage. Another build-up was coming, and I welcomed it. “Look at me when you are coming,” he said and fixed his eyes on me. I looked at him, and the orgasm washed through me. He kept his rhythm steady, and soon, he stilled and poured himself into me. Sylvester lay next to me, trying to catch his breath. I was fully satisfied. He pulled me close, and I laid my head against his chest. “Don’t leave me, Tamia,” He said, stroking my hair.

Chapter 20 ~Leo~ I received Tamia’s letter and was shocked that the wolf Lord would help her send it. Tamia was a loveable woman; I could imagine what she was doing there. The letters made it clear that she was okay, and I felt a bit jealous that she was happy without me. I wasn’t happy. My heart was still broken, and I had lost a part of me when I released her. I wonder who was helping her through the difficult moment. Amanda had moved back into the house and was gradually busy furnishing the living room. I did not let her move into the room I shared with Tamia. I wanted to hold on to her scent until time faded it away. Rebuilding the damage caused by the attack had taken most of my time, and I had stopped attending the regional meetings. I received two summon letters that I did not honour. I could not help but blame Kyle for what happened to me. People might argue that my marriage was over before the attackers came, but I was trying to fix it. I felt stuck. Even though Amanda and I were fated and my feelings for her were strong, I felt stuck. I felt fate had stolen my free will and fucked with my life; the Wolf lord took Tamia from me. I wished her the best, but I prayed that one day, soon, the Wolf Lord would release her, and she will come home. I will be waiting with open arms, loving her with all my heart, and never making her cry again. It was a promise I made to myself. I was sitting in my office when Casper brought me a parcel. It was huge, and a letter was



attached to it. "Who sent it?" I asked my Beta, and he looked worried. "The Wolf Lord," he said, and I saw blood on the parcel. I became scared it was Tamia. My hands were shaking when I began to undo the strings that secured the box. I opened it and saw the head of an eastern warrior. As gory and sad as the sight was, I was relieved that it wasn't Tamia. I opened the letter. "Alpha Leonardo Albert. I was kind to receive your letter and deliver it to your ex-wife. I was kind to allow her to send you a letter so you would have closure. I believe you are an honourable man, but I have issues with the east now. Your region teamed up with Alpha Devin and sent men to attack my sanctuary in the north to abduct Tamia from me. They came with poisoned gas and tried to eliminate my people. This is to let you know that I won't sit idly by while your people insult me. I am sending you this parcel because I know you are in charge of the east. Let this be a warning. I will not take another attack lightly. I know your packs are yet to recover from the last one, which makes this a stupid move. The only reason I won't strike now is because of Tamia. I know she will be mad if I hurt you, but do not push me, Alpha Leonardo. Whatever you have going on with Devin should remain between the east and south. Tamia belongs to me now. She is mine; I will see another attempt to steal her as an act of war. I won't be taking trophies, and I won't accept peace offerings. I will burn the entire east to the ground. Sylvester Volkov." It read, and my hands shook. I could feel his rage from reading the letter. I also noticed that he was possessive of Tamia. I did not need to guess. He had made exceptions for her, which was against his character. He might have fallen for her. I did not understand why Devin would send men to the north to rescue Tamia; I also wondered who gave him the eastern soldiers he needed. Missing the meeting had left me in the dark. It was time for me to stop grieving over my loss and be the leader I was supposed to be. It was time to take the reigns. I looked at my Beta. "Casper, do you know of the attack?" I asked him. "I just heard, Alpha. Apparently, Alpha Max wanted Avery back, and teamed up with Devin to get Avery and Tamia back," he said, and I became angry. "Without my consent? Who the fuck do they think they are? I am in charge of the east. I feel insulted," I said, and Casper was silent. "Call a meeting and invite that bastard Devin. I want to know why he and Max will do this to us." I said, and Casper left. I wondered what gave Devin the right to risk a war over Tamia. They met once. Danced once, and he suddenly felt he could. Was he trying to say I did not love her enough to go after them? Tamia gave herself up so that people would live. If my life was all that was at stake, I would have risked it all to get her back, or died trying. I called Kyle immediately because he was the one that brought Devin into our lives. "Hello," He said, sounding drunk on the phone. I did not know how he was drinking, but I didn't bother to ask him why. "Do you know about the attack?" I asked him, and he was silent. "I just heard about it. I can't believe Max and Devin will put us in this situation. I am afraid right now, Leo. I

have nothing to give the Wolf Lord if he retaliates,” he said, and I could understand why he was drinking. “We better hope he doesn’t because he doesn’t plan to take anything. He sent me a message that he would burn the east to the ground,” I told him, and he exclaimed. “We need to prove to him we had no hand in it,” Kyle said. “And Max?” I asked, and he sighed. “He dug his grave,” he said “But you were the one that brought Devin to the east. You made us forge the alliance with the scumbag; since then, we have had nothing but trouble. The wolf Lord never bothered with us, and we never looked for his trouble until we made the alliance with the south,” I said. “What are you saying, Leo?” He asked, and I sighed. “If you said you didn’t stage the first attack, then who do you think will do it on your behalf?” I asked, and he was silent. I knew he understood what I was driving at, but he was too afraid to say it. “Do you think that Bane is trying to get us in trouble with the wolf lord?” he asked, and I laughed. “I am not sure, but I suspect he has a hand in it. Hence why he will attack the north by joining forces with Max. We both know he knew he could not win. This is the wolf lord we are talking about.” I said, and Kyle was silent. “I will see you at the meeting tonight. Come sober,” I told him and hung up. After talking to Kyle, I thought of my deductions. Bane was smart, it was supposed to be a get in get out mission, but Max was his failsafe. If his warriors do not succeed, the south won’t be the only region implicated. The east will be implicated, too, forcing us to join forces and go after the north if the Wolf lord tries to retaliate. I hoped for all our sakes I am wrong because if that is the case, we are fucked. I fought the northern warriors, and they were too skilled and strong. On my way home, my phone rang, and I answered; it was Max. “Leo, I am sorry,” were his first words. “It sounded like a good idea at then. He didn’t tell me he was going for Tamia. He just said he would help me get my Avery back.” Max said, and I felt it was weird that he would want Avery back after all he made her endure because of Michelle. I heard he used to beat Avery. Why will he want her back so badly? “I thought you wanted her out of your lives?” I asked him, and he sighed. “I want her back. My life hasn’t been the same. It’s been almost a month, and everything is falling apart. All Michelle is good for is fucking, and she has a terrible attitude. I am beginning to suspect the things she said Avery did to her were lies. She just wanted my wife out of the picture. I regret everything. I should have given them Michelle. I am doing my job and Luna’s duty now. Michelle is so dumb, and I am mad fate will join me with such a useless piece of shit. You know the fucked up part, I can’t hate her. Whenever she is with me, I feel like a fool. My wolf just gives in. I should have risked being weak and rejected her.” he said, ranting, and I sighed. “Still, you had no right to go after her now. The Wolf Lord is mad,” I said, and he growled. “I did not care,” he said, and I growled back. “I care. I fucking care, damn it. People died last time; how many more are we willing to sacrifice? Let it go. I am sure she is fine. The man is

treating them well,” I said so he could be at peace. “And how do you know this? That man is a sick fuck. Do you know what the north does to Lunas they capture?” he said, and I sighed. “He is different, Max. Tamia sent me a letter saying she was fine. If anything was wrong, she would have found a way to put it in the letter without letting them know. I am sure Avery has accepted that she belongs to the north and moved on. Do the same,” I said, and he was silent. “See you at the meeting tonight, and make sure Devin shows up,” I said and hung up. I returned to the house, and Amanda was weeping at the table. I knew her blackmail tactics, and I was numb to them. So I walked to my bedroom. I showered and dressed, then returned to the living room to wait for the meeting. “Leo,” Amanda said, coming to join me on the couch with puffy eyes. “You haven’t touched me since I returned. I did not do anything to deserve this.” She said, and I looked into her eyes. She was sad, even though I knew it wasn’t her fault. I was still in mourning. Black wanted to comfort her, but I held back. “Give me time,” I said gently and kissed her forehead. No matter how mad I was, I couldn’t hate her. She remained with me on the couch until it was time for the meeting. I did not want her to follow me, but she insisted, so I let her. I waited for Amanda to get dressed, so I knew I would arrive at the meeting late. When I arrived at the meeting hall, there was a full-blown argument, and I realised Max was trying to fight Devin, claiming he had tricked him. “You wanted Avery, and I wanted Tamia. How did I trick you?” Devin said, stating what transpired. I walked up to him and tried to punch him, but he caught my fist. “You won’t hit me twice, Alpha Leo. I will give you your respect because of our alliance, but do not try to hit me again,” He warned me, and his yellowish wolf eyes flashed. “The Alliance is off. Go back to your region. You have done enough,” I said. There was no need to have a lengthy discussion. They had admitted what they had done, and everyone knew what might ensue. The only thing left was a response to their actions. Devin looked around, wanting to see if they shared the same opinion, but no one countered me. “I may not be as famous or as powerful as you are, but this is my region, these are my people, and I am the head. Kyle made that alliance with my permission. I am breaking it tonight,” I said, and he nodded, accepting defeat. “You will regret this, Alpha Leo. The north can’t be trusted. The Lord of the north is sly and wicked, and he will come for all of you when you least expected it,” He said, and I laughed. “What does taking Tamia from the north have to do with conquering it?” I asked him, pointing out the stupidity of his words. He looked at me funny. “It wasn’t a crime trying to get Tamia away from that bastard. She deserves better, Leo. You might not feel anything for her, but she deserves better than being a fuck toy for the wolf lord and his officers,” He said with pain and anger, and I could swear he was in love with Tamia. I had never seen Devin break character before. What the fuck was his problem? They only met once.