

The Dark Side Of Fate By Karima Sa'ad Usman Chapter 262

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Meeting Erik

~Leo~

I got ready for the meeting the next day. I was a bit tired because Amelia woke me up

at night to discuss the meeting with the Sullivans.

She could not come because she was sleeping then, and no one was allowed to wake

her.

I wished she was there, I knew she would have had plenty to say, but she wasn't, so I

had to discuss the situation. She wasn't happy about it but understood she needed

the rest.

Contrary to what I thought, Amelia trusted the Sullivans and had her reasons for it.

She said it was normal for them to want to protect their daughter and her mate.

I could see it from that angle, but Susan and Devin were yet to claim each other. I let

the matter drop so I could sleep.

The night's discussion had messed up my sleep, and now that I was getting ready for

my trip to Hayland, I was feeling the effect.

I left the room and headed to the kitchen to drink coffee.

To my surprise, the men were there making sandwiches.

I remembered the darn bet we lost and grumbled. I was hoping to eat something nice

for a change.

"Can't we just do something spontaneous and cancel this bet? We ate sandwiches

three times yesterday. I love Amelia's sandwich recipes, but I am tired,"

I said, and

Sylvester laughed and showed me a cookbook.

“We plan to take it up a notch today.” He said with his messy apron. I looked at Kyle and Max, who seemed the least interested in what was going on in the kitchen.

“I will eat with the staff,” Kyle said, and Sylvester forbade him.

“We had a bet, and we lost. We cook and eat. That was the deal. We have to be men

of our word,” He said, and Max grumbled.

Sylvester putting it that way, had backed them into a corner. They weren’t men of their

word; that was how they lost a lot, to begin with. It was a silent jab, and we all knew it,

so when everyone started laughing, I could not help but join in.

“Time to turn a new leaf, guys,” Dominic said, elaborating on the matter, and Kyle

placed his head on the table, grumbling.

The food was plated on the table, and to our surprise, the women had a different

breakfast from us. It was mouth-watering too.

They had baked potatoes, Danish pastries, juice, smoked sausages, baked beans,

fruit salad, toast, salad and different types of dressing.

“We had a deal,” Sylvester grumbled while Tamia ate the spread.

“Yes, we did, my darling husband, but as I stated, we do not have to eat what you

prepare. Besides, we can only eat so many sandwiches,” She said.

Looking at the

sandwiches we made. They looked great this time, but everyone was tired of them.

“Leo, Devin, Theodore and Clay can join us because they have a meeting to attend,

and a full and satisfied stomach is required for it, but the rest of you must finish the

bet. Be men of your word,” She said, and all the men started laughing,

including Kyle
and Max, because she had said the same exact words that Sylvester had
said to Kyle
in the kitchen.

I ate some of the food, and soon, the others joined in. The women
allowed it because
the spread was much, but we still had to cook for the rest of the week. I
was grateful

for the meeting because I would miss a day of bad food.

Soon it was time for us to leave, and the Kappa that would drive us
brought the van to
the front.

We left for the meeting.

I noticed Devin and Clay were super excited, and I wondered what was
special about
this meeting.

Theodore seemed indifferent but very confident.

The drive to Hayland was about two hours on the express road. We had
to be extra

careful in case we were ambushed or something. I didn't want any
surprises. We had

no Nitric gas or masks. We were taking a considerable risk, and I hoped
it would be
worth it.

We arrived in Hayland peacefully but could not rest until we were out of
the place. We

had to avoid Alpha Gordon because he was a foe.

We could not tell him that Erik was in town, especially after learning
that Erik was on

Yuri's personal hit list.

I decided to call the number my father had given me to inform Erik that I
was around.

The line rang a couple of times before it was answered.

"Hello," A deep, masculine voice answered with confidence.

"This is Leonardo Albert; I am in Hayland," I said, going straight to the

point because it
did seem like the person on the line had time for pleasantries.
“Come to Vision route. There is an abandoned warehouse by a dead gas
station
called Fill It. Once you get there, walk into the warehouse. Someone will
join you. How
many are you?” He asked, and I did not know if giving him our real
number would be
wise. We honestly had nothing to lose, so I told him our number.
“I see you came with the calvary. No surprises, Albert,” he said and
hung up.
He did not seem like a nice dude.
I began to suspect I had come with the wrong crew. David would have
been best to
liven him up. I guess our humour and confidence would have to do.
We ensured we weren’t followed while driving through until we reached
the Gas
station.
It was a dead, run-down dump, and I wondered who the owner was.
The warehouse was there. It was a run-down building with part of the
roofings gone.
I wondered if Erik was living in the place. We found a place to hide our
van in the
woods and went to the warehouse. We were extra careful to ensure we
weren’t being
watched.
We entered the warehouse, and it was empty.
I wondered if we had been played.
I could smell and feel our tension, but we were calm and silent. Clay
was growling,
and I knew his wolf was on standby.
A latch in the ground opened, and a shirtless white-haired man with
moon-coloured
eyes came out of the opening. He looked young, so he couldn’t be Erik.
“Clay, relax,” The guy said, smiling at Clay, and it was weird because he

looked like

Clay and Amelia.

“Nelson, what are you doing here?” Clay asked him, and he approached

Clay and

hugged him.

“Joining the cause, bro. Yuri has gotten out of hand. I heard you are on the Volkov

team now,” He said, breaking the hug and looking at me warily.

“I am on my father’s team,” Clay said, and Nelson laughed.

“Come on.” He said, and we followed him.

“Leo, Theo, Devin meet my cousin, Nelson; he is Yuri’s youngest son.

His father

disowned him a few years ago. He stayed with me a while before he went missing.

Yuri is after him, by the way, but it has nothing to do with what is going on,” Clay said,

and Nelson laughed.

“I stole his coin and a shit load of money,” Nelson said, and they both laughed. I

relaxed a bit, and we went underground.

It was a lab.

Alexei wasn’t lying when he said Erik saw himself as a scientist. I wondered what he

was doing here.

I wondered if Gordon knew Stepanovs were working on various mixtures and lab

apparatus in a hidden lab in Hayland. My guess was he didn’t. The Stepanovs in the

lab seemed happy and relaxed.

I saw two girls that looked a bit like Amelia but not as pretty. I wasn’t being

sentimental; it was true.

We were ushered to a door, and Nelson knocked.

“Who is it,” I heard a loud, deep voice. The same voice I heard on the phone.

“They are here, Uncle,” Nelson said, and there was silence. Erik must have linked Nelson because he opened the door and let us in. I walked in, and I was surprised to see a small-frame man. About five feet seven inches tall. He was slender and had a lot of white hair on his head and beard. He looked neat and healthy. He had one blue eye and the other moon coloured.

“Have a seat,” He said and looked at Clay. We remained standing just in case it was a trap. It wasn’t like we could do much in our situation, but it was best to go down fighting than go down quickly. “Luis did replicate himself,” He said, staring at Clay, and Clay greeted him.

“I won’t want to waste your time. I am sure you all know by now what is going on; that is why you are here. What are the Volkovs offering in exchange for my help?” He asked, getting straight to the point. I swallowed immediately and tabled the offer.

“Lordship to the legitimate heirs, restoration of the Stepanov name and the Western region,” I added. There was no way I wanted Sean to still head the West. Erik laughed.

“A region already compromised,” he said, and I shook my head. “Sean would be dealt with and his title revoked. The King still owns the West,” I said, and he nodded.

“He sent the right guy. I was expecting he would send one of his distant cousins for this,” he said and laughed.

“Oh, but he did. I almost forgot that you are a Volov too, Albert,” He said, correcting himself and laughing.

“When Ricky said you were coming, I thought the King wouldn’t allow you, but he did.

He must trust you. Even though he took your wife,” he said, and I smiled and

maintained my cool.

“We are where we were meant to be,” I replied.

“Loyal to a fault,” he said, observing, and I remained silent.

“What about you, Lord Orlov? You would allow the council leader to speak where you

are present?” He asked Theodore, and he nodded.

“I am only here so you would know the King has a hand in this, and we respect you.

Leo is in charge of this meeting,” Theodore said, and Erik nodded with approval.

“Tell Sylvester that his offer is good enough for me. All the people that committed the

crime against my lineage are dead. I have no qualms with him. I just want to walk in

the daylight without dying my hair, wearing contact lenses and hiding my name. I want

to be a noble again. I want my bloodline to be free.” He said, and his eyes were misty.

Their situation wasn’t rosy, and it showed.

“Why does Yuri want to kill you?” I asked him, and he became angry.

“My mother made a mistake bringing that bastard along. He is too greedy for his good.

He has wanted to be a king ever since we were little. I did not know he would pursue

his ambitions like this. It seemed we were trying to preserve the family name and

avenge our relatives, but after a while, I realised we were turning into monsters, which

made me want out of the group. That was why we divided the group.

But that isn’t why

he wants me dead,” he said, and I frowned at him.

“So why does he want you dead?” Theodore asked.

“Because of AgK32,” he said, and I frowned at him.

“Silver serum. While trying to replicate our genes, I made a serum that helps normal

werewolves resistant to silver for a short period. It was meant to have a lasting effect,

but it doesn’t. See it more like a temporary preventive measure. The side effects are

not so harmful. A rash and fever after twenty-four hours of usage.

You see, the serum makes us less unique because our immunity to silver is our

superpower. Giving others the power, even if it is for a short period, would be risky for

his plans to take over by force and rule,” He said and laughed. A lightbulb went on in

my head, but I held my tongue.

“Tell Volkov to put all he has promised in place, and he will have five hundred true

Stepanovs at his disposal. I do not know Yuri’s location, but we will snuff him out. His

last known Location was Mountain, but I think he has moved. He is a master of

disguise, so you won’t catch him easily..” he said, and he had lost me when he said

Yuri’s last known location was Mountain.

“When was he in Mountain?” I asked, and Erik understood my fear.

“When Amelia arrived. I had people watching her from your woods,” he said with a

guilty expression because he wasn’t supposed to do that. I wondered why he watched

my mate, but I would ask later.

“I am also sorry that I tried to capture you,” he said, laughing as if it were nothing. I

held my tongue and let him finish his statement.

“My people saw him in your settlement a couple of times, I have photos,

but they
won't be helpful because he was disguised. He left after they burnt down
your plant.
Gordon is in on it too. I have my ears to the ground. Yuri has much
support, but we
can take him out together. I need Sylvester just as much as he needs me.
I am not too
proud to admit that, you see," He said and went to sit.
He offered us seats again, and this time, we sat down.
Erik ordered Nelson to bring us something to eat. I still could not get
over Yuri being in
Mountain without my knowledge and Erik having his men in my woods
watching us.
The Novel will be updated daily. Come back and continue reading
tomorrow,

~Leo~

I knew it wasn't a good idea to eat with Erik, but I also knew it would be
rude to refuse
his hospitality, and since we had come for his help, we had to be on our
best
behaviour so we did not piss him off.
The man looked pretty weird, and his features were unexpected. His
different eye
colours made him look as if he were blind in one and could see with
only the blue one.
Other than him looking like a mad scientist, the man did not seem
dangerous at all.
Nothing like Andrew had expressed. I could see why my father rebuked
Andrew's
words as a rambling of an aggrieved child. It was, indeed.
I looked at Theodore and saw him contemplating the comfort too. Too
bad neither of
us belonged to the same pack; we could not link each other.
"Ermmm", Erik cleared his throat, drawing our attention back to him,

and I wondered
what he wanted.

“I am glad we had that talk, but that brings me to my desires,” he said,
and I frowned,
wondering what he meant by his desires.

He took out a syringe and placed it on the table. Seeing a syringe with
someone like

him was scary, especially knowing he ran experiments on people. He
composed
himself to speak while we tried not to act spooked.

“I would first like to apologise for trying to forcefully take you from
your pack. I did not
ask them to extract you, but they got overzealous,” He said, and my eyes
bulged. He

confessed to being responsible for the attack that happened in my
woods.

“They almost killed me!” I exclaimed.

“As I said, they were being overzealous, and I am grateful they didn’t,”
he said

casually as if it were nothing. I began to suspect the man was just as
unstable as the
rumours implied.

“Anyway, since you are here, I want to believe you hold no grudge and
we can be
friends,” He said, and it was a very odd way to apologise, so I just stared
at him.

“I do not know if you have heard anything, but I am sure you know you
have both

Stepanov and Volkov genes,” He said, and I nodded.

“I would like to run some tests on you. I mean, on your blood samples.”
He said and

corrected himself immediately, knowing how the first sentence sounded.

“The Albert line is the only Bloodline with Stepanov genes that could
still produce

alphas and mighty ones at that.

I want to see why. I just need a blood sample. I promise I won't harm you," He said,
rushing through his words so I do not interrupt him;
I did not know what to say. Knowing we needed him did not leave me any choice.

"If I give you the blood sample, you won't ask something else of me again?" I asked,
and he nodded.

"I want to study you, Leo. I won't ask anything of you again, except if I am alive and
your heir with Amelia Westwood happens to be an Alpha, then that would be a good
study," he said with a glow in his eyes that let me know he would move to take blood

samples of my children if he is still alive when they grow up.

One thing I had to give the man was that he did not bother to hide his emotions and
intentions, which was a good trait on his part. He would be an easy man to deal with.

"Very well," I said, and he beamed at me; then he put away the syringe he placed on
the table and brought out one with a larger container.

"hey!" I exclaimed, and everyone except Erik and me started laughing.

"What? It's just a little bigger than the one I presented," Erik said, pretending he had
not just deceived me.

"You deceived me. You plan on taking a lot," I complained, and he sighed.

"Had I shown you this one, you wouldn't have agreed. It is not a big deal. You will eat
and drink water, and the blood will be replaced.

I will even give you an iron supplement for free. Mine works like magic," He said with a
creepy grin, and I looked at my friends and soon-to-be inlaw. They nodded and told

me to go ahead.

Erik grinned and led me to a chair. He did not use the syringe; instead, someone

brought a plastic adapter, a hypodermic needle and a vacuum tube.

Erik used the needle to collect my blood in a bag. It took about fifteen minutes for him

to get a quarter of the bag. Then he took it out, labelled the bag, and asked a lady

dressed like a nurse to store it in their bank. I wondered what they were doing in the lab.

“Well, that is it,” Erik said, smiling at me and leading us out of his office.

“Sometimes asking just makes it easy,” He said with a grin while he stood by the door as we walked out of his office.

“Be assured that I will not trouble you anymore,” He said when Clay stepped out of his office.

Erik led us to another room with a table with six chairs and food on it.

The spread wasn’t spectacular, but the fact that they could have that much food

underground was mind-blowing.

I wouldn’t be surprised if they had a place they grew stuff underground.

The place was

massive. It was wider than the size of the warehouse above. They did not have loud

machinery that would cause vibrations and expose them. It was quiet and serene.

“Please manage our meal,” Erik said with a grin, and I nodded.

It was okay.

Nelson finally joined us, grinning.

It was fair to say he loved Erik more than his father. That spoke a lot of volumes.

“Do you have any record of Yuri when he was in Mountain? You said

you had people
watching him. You also said he is a master of disguise. I would like to
see how he was
able to infiltrate my people.” I asked, and Erick nodded.
“He didn’t only do that; he befriended the lovely Amelia too,” He said,
and I was in
shock.

“Do not worry. He had no intention of harming her. He tried to use her
for information,
but she was no good to him. She is a tight-lip woman. My men watched
them,” he
said, took a sip of water and chuckled.

“Yuri dressed like a displaced person, and Amelia gave him food.
Mainly sandwiches.

We have pictures,” Erik said, and it was taking a lot for me to calm
down.

Knowing that Amelia was that close to danger and I was ignorant about
it made me
worried. I wondered what I would have done if he had nefarious
intentions and had
carried them out.

My stubbornness must have driven her to talk to strangers back then. I
thanked the
goddess for protecting her and keeping her safe.

“May we see the photograph?” Theodore asked, sounding curious, and Erik
smiled.

Someone walked in five minutes later with a small stack of pictures.

Erik went through
them and passed a few around. I noticed the shock on Theodore’s face
when he held
the photo. I was eager to see what was on it.

Theodore passed it to me, and I saw the same photo I had discovered in
the satchel I

found in the woods when Max and I went to search for clues. The
picture of the

displaced man handing something to Amelia.

“When we saw that, we assumed she had joined Yuri, but we soon figured that wasn’t true,” Erik said, and I remembered what was written at the back of the photo.

“Was that why they wrote ‘Send to Alpha; she is in’ at the back of the copy of the

picture?” I asked him, and he frowned at me. I took out my phone and scrolled until I

got to the image and the writing behind it. I passed the phone to Erik, and he read it.

“Where did you find the picture?” He asked me with concern.

“In a sachel abandoned in my woods,” I said, and he nodded.

“The man that took this picture went missin’ before you went to the North for the

meeting. I have been looking for him since. I used to think you had him; now I know

Yuri’s people must have taken him,” He said with sadness in his eyes.

“I should have pulled him from there once Yuri showed up, but I did not expect Yuri to

know he was watching him. I was stupid. The man was kind,” He said, and I could see

the genuine regret in his eyes.

“The answer to your question is yes. That was what the writing meant,”

He said and

ate his potatoes.

I could not get over Yuri being in Mountain all along. It troubled me that he was this

close, and we did not know. Amelia even gave him food. It was disturbing.

“So, how do we begin? Because I would like everything to return to normal,” Theodore

finally spoke up, and Erik answered.

“Tell Sylvester to keep his promise and do the needful; it would make it easier for me

to get willing volunteers to fight Yuri. As for the army on your side, I am sure they could handle a little rash. I can produce high quantities of AgK32 and administer it before the battle. Although I would need some level of freedom in Hayland to produce the needed quantity,” he said and grinned at me.

“As head alpha of the East, I am sure you can get Gordon out of the way and cure this place for me to work. I will also have my scout out there trying to fish Yuri out, but we would have to work together and pass information between ourselves effectively to move fast.

I also suspect he would be in the South because that is his strongest hold. We also have to subdue alpha, Sean, of course. He is a sly bastard and might ruin our plans if we allow him freedom.” Erik said, and I nodded.

“We will need you to write everything down and sign so there won’t have a misunderstanding. All these things can be arranged,” Theodore said, and Erik nodded.

We ate the food in peace, and I was eager to see the outcome of this partnership.

