

Chapter 7 - The Destiny of a Heart-broken Luna

~Tamia~

“No need,” I replied, and he walked to me and looked into my eyes. I knew he was hurting, but his pain was nothing compared to mine.

He was the one on the gaining side.

“I can’t let go, Tamia,” he said and placed his hands gently on my shoulders.

“It is normal to give up on a situation and someone you don’t understand, Tamia. I understand your anger and why you will flirt with Devin. I know you have a strong reason to give up on us, but I am asking you to give me a chance. I know we can make this work. I am willing to do anything for you, Tamia. I know I am wrong, but tell me what to do to keep you.

I will do anything to keep you, Tamia. I was hoping you could teach me how. I will learn to be a better person for you please. Amanda was beyond my control. I am sorry. You know I tried. Please, Tamia,” He pleaded with me with tears in his eyes.

Leo went on his knees and hugged my legs.

“Please, Tamia. I am trying to the best of my ability. Let me prove myself to you. Let me make it work,” He said in tears, and I knew he wouldn’t let up.

“Get up,” I said, and he stood up.

I looked up to see the hurt in his eyes. He was deeply conflicted.

“All you had to do was reject her, but instead, you let her father bully her way into our home. You left our bed and went to her. You pushed me aside. I thought I would have to share, but you didn’t even

leave room for that. You abandoned me. I am a laughing stock. Most pack members do not even respect me anymore. As far as they are concerned, I am no longer their Luna. What do you want me to do, Leo? How do you want me to cope? You should let me go. If you love me, you will reject me and let me go. You have to reject one of us, and that will be me, Leo. Let me get over you in peace,” I said, and he shook his head.

My heart was breaking too.

We were so good together. I had many happy memories with Leo.

Why did this happen to us? My heart was breaking.

He leaned close to me and kissed me on my lips.

I let him because I needed comfort. It was a messed up situation.

He was the cause of my pain, and he was giving me comfort.

My body needed it. I kept telling myself, just this once, Tamia'.

Somehow trying to justify what was about to happen between us. He was my husband, and it shouldn't feel wrong.

My body ached, and he was right when he implied that I was aroused, but I still wanted him.

So I threw caution to the wind and wrapped my legs around him. I knew it was going to be a long night. Kaira purred in my head.

He was trying to get another chance, but this was my goodbye to him. I just had one more month before receiving a response from a southern Alpha, to whom I sent a request.

Once it comes, I will leave regardless of what it says. It was for the best. Seeing the way Leo was, he wouldn't be able to let go of me, and neither would he let

Amanda go. I had to decide for him. So I set aside my grudge and gave him access. I allowed him to make love to me.

Leo made love to me all through the night. It was as if he was auditioning, trying to make me remember.

I never forgot how I felt about him. I just ignored my feelings, so I didn't hurt more than I was already.

There was nothing wrong with what we were doing. He was my husband, but I was scared because the more I let myself enjoy it, the more hurt I would be when I woke up alone on my bed.

Leo went four rounds with me that night until I couldn't take anymore. I wondered where the fire came from. It reminded me of old times. Times I knew were gone forever.

I woke up. To my surprise, Leo was lying next to me in bed.

Tears welled up in my eyes, and I wanted to cry. There was a time I would wake up to this sight of him every morning before I went on my runs. Fate had messed up my life completely, and I doubted if I would ever be happy again.

I got up and wore my robe to cover my body when someone suddenly started banging on my door.

I knew it was Amanda. What was her deal? I never banged on her door. Why was she banging on mine?

Leo woke up abruptly and looked at me.

"Good morning," he said, and the banging came again. He looked at me, unsure if he should open the door or not. I wanted to see him struggle.

He eventually got up and went to the door.

He opened it, and Amanda walked in.

"Get out of my room," I warned her, and Leo gently walked her out. I could allow anything, but there was no way she would be entering my room.

The argument between Amanda and Leo was explosive.

"You knew I was married and insisted. I can't neglect my wife, Amanda." He said, pleading with her, and I laughed.

"She doesn't fight me when I am with you. You have to accept that it will be like this," he said, and I heard a slap. She had slapped Leo on the face, and I wanted to laugh.

"I Amanda.." She said, using the same old blackmail. A half rejection. I would have greatly respected him if only Leo was man enough to take it. The only reason he slept with me was out of fear.

Usually, men in his situation, especially Alphas, never bother because they know no one would want their women, but in his case, Alpha Devin had

shown interest in me, which meant he could take me from him with a challenge. All I had to do was accept, and Leo will have no choice but to accept the challenge.

Leo was strong, but he was no match for Devin. He has to bow out and reject me regarding a challenge. He put on all that sports all night long to prove he could still care for my needs. But we were

past that. Great sex wasn't going to make me change my mind about him. If I ever get an opportunity to leave his arse, I will take it and never look back.

"Go ahead, finish the sentence. I'm sick of this shit," I heard Leo tell her and I was shocked. She was silent.

"This is how it will be around here henceforth. Tamia is my wife, and nothing will change that. If you can't handle it, too bad. We had a perfect life before all this fated shit happened, and then your father forced you into my home. I have gone against myself and the woman I love for this shit. You know nothing about how far Tamia and I have come, Amanda. We built this pack together. Don't ask me to turn my back on her because I won't." He said, and tears welled up in my eyes.

He left her, returned to my room, and then went to lie on the bed.

"I do not feel like doing much today, and neither should you. Come back to bed," he urged me, and I smiled at him. My husband had grown some balls.

Leo kept his word and spent four nights a week in my room. Amanda went home a couple of times, but she had to come back.

She reported us to her father, but the man could not get involved. Everyone thought Leo would treat me like Max and Kyle treat their wives, but they were wrong. He truly cared for me.

It was hard on Black, Leo's wolf, but Leo forced his wolf to comply. I could not bear Black's pain, but Leo asked me to ignore Black. He was trying, there was no doubt.

The pack members gradually started giving my respect to Amanda.

Some people even blatantly disrespected

They often said they wanted to check with

Amanda before carrying out the task I gave them.

Since the Mountain Pack had two Lunas, I stopped going to the office and carrying out my luna duties. Amanda had no clue how it was done, but I did not care. Every time there was an issue, I left it for

Amanda to attend.

I never heard from Devin again, and a month passed quietly.

There was a commotion in the settlement, and I wondered what was happening. Leo entered my office in a rush.

“We are under attack, Tamia, Northern Wolves from the Dark Alpha,” he said, and I became scared.

“What happened?” I asked, leaving my desk, and he shook his head.

“Something about Kyle overstepping, but we are all in it now, and Alpha Devin isn’t around to help us.” He said.

“Where is the battle?” I asked him.

“Valley hill, Max’s pack. Once they fall, we are next,” he said, and we walked home quickly. We entered, and Amanda was panicking.

“Go to the shelter and hide,” he told her, and I frowned at him.

“She is luna, too; she should fight,” I said angrily, and he shook his head.

“I do not have time for this, Tamia. Let’s shift and head to the battle.” He said, and I shook my head.

“Please, Tamia, She isn’t a trained warrior,” he said, trying to reason with

“You should have trained her,” I said, refusing to go.

The siren went off, which meant the defence in Valley hill had fallen, and the attackers were in our settlement.

“Guess she will have to fight now,” I said and looked at her.

“Do you think this is a joke, Tamia? They are in our settlement! Amanda can’t fight because she is with child,” He said, and I froze.

“You got her pregnant?” I yelled, and he was quiet.

“You took precautions with me for five years and got her pregnant in months,” I said, tears forming in my eyes, and he was speechless.

“Let’s go,” he said, and I shook my head.

“Leave without me,” I said, and he growled at me in frustration.

“Please, Tamia,” He pleaded with me.

“Leave!” I yelled, tears streaming down my face.

“I wanted children, Leo, but you said we should take our time. Now, this. I am the third wheel now. Why should I come with you when you two are already a family?” I said, tears streaming down my face.

“We can try too,” he said in a hurry, and I shook my head.

“I am sick and tired of this shit! None of us is truly happy,” I said, and he shook his head.

“Please, Tamia, this isn’t the time,” he said, and I was about to respond when our door was knocked down, and huge men with long beards and hair barged in.

Leo was ready to fight. He shifted and attacked, but they were too much and soon overpowered him. Amanda begged them not to kill him, but they did not listen.

I watched her weep and saw their effort to capture him. They wanted a trophy.

“Spare his life and take me as your trophy,” I told the men, going on my knees; they needed to kill either Leo or me for the attack to end. By surrendering, neither of us would die. I did not know what captivity would be like, but it was better than this.

"Tamia, please," Amanda linked me, but I shut her out. That was the first time she showed concern. The men wore silver on me and dragged me out of the house while Black lay unconscious on the ground. The Dark Alpha had made his statement. I hoped they listen.

"Where are you taking me to?" I asked the men while they dragged me in chains.

"To the north," They said, and I dreaded the days ahead.

-Tamia~

The men dragged me all the way. My heart broke to see wounded and dead wolves on the ground.

What did Kyle do to doom our entire region? I wondered and fought the tears welling in my eyes.

The Dark Alpha was ruthless, and I now understood why people feared him.

I was dragged to the border between

Mountain Pack and Valley hill pack. There I saw a massacre.

Warriors were killed. Looking at the casualties, I noticed only our wolves were killed. None of the northern wolves died.

It made me wonder who trained them and also made me dread the Dark Alpha.

Where was Devin? He was supposed to be in our region to help when something like this happened, but he was nowhere to be found.

I could not fathom the lives that were affected by this.

A white van was waiting, and the men dragging me opened the door and ordered me to get in.

I did what they said without question. My goal was to leave Leo; it wasn't to get killed.

After all I saw on our way, I made a conscious decision not to aggravate or irritate the northern soldiers.

I sat down, surprised to see the other people in the truck with me.

Someone hit the side of the truck twice, and the engine started.

“So he threw you to them, too?” Avery asked me, and I frowned at her, not understanding what she meant. I looked at Linda, and she didn’t look pregnant.

“I mean, Leo gave you to them as a peace offering to the Dark Alpha so they can leave him and Amanda alone and spare his pack,” Avery said, explaining her question, and I shook my head. She was surprised by my response.

“He didn’t. He shifted and fought to protect but they overpowered him. They were going to kill him, so I asked them to take me, us,

I said, and she was shocked.

“Are you out of your mind?” she asked, and I frowned.

“How can you make that sacrifice? You are a good warrior; you two would have stood a chance together,” she said, and tears welled in my eyes, remembering the real reason I surrendered.

“I was tired of everything, Avery. I couldn’t take it anymore.” I told my friend, and tears streamed down her face.

“You should have stayed. However it was, you had it better than Linda and I. We would have given anything to remain if our husband didn’t give us up as peace offerings. Whatever you were going through with Leo is better than being the Dark Alpha’s trophy and slave. Leo cared for you and still gave you your respect. You said it yourself. Four nights in a week, Tamia, I rarely get one. His love is true. It is unfortunate that fate fucked you two up, but you should have fought beside him and stayed.” She said, and I wiped away my tears and looked at her.

“He got her pregnant, Ave,” I said and began to weep.

There was no point hiding my feelings. I had no shame to cover. It was best I bare it all for all to see.

“He took precautions with me for five years, telling me he wasn’t ready, but he got her pregnant in months. I could not be the third wheel. They were already a family. Leo wouldn’t have surrendered or given me up.

He had proven it already. I had to do what was best for all of us. His heart was no longer in it. Everything he did was out of duty. Now he and Black are free to be with Amanda and live the lives they want. I will take my chances with the Dark Alpha. Nothing can hurt me as much as what fate did to me.” I said, and Avery nodded and looked at Linda, who remained quiet all through. 1

“What is wrong with her?” I asked Avery, unable to link each other because of the silver chains in our hands.

“She has been quiet since I entered. Her pack was the first to go down. She lost the baby due to stress and malnutrition, and then Kyle pointed her as his luna and gave her away as a peace offering. Max did the same to me. He took his bitch to the shelter and asked me to stay and fight. When he noticed they were strong, he surrendered and gave me to them. If only these people knew we weren’t the Lunas anymore, they would be mad,” she said and smiled.

“Just like you, I believe life in captivity is freedom compared to where I am coming from,” Avery said.

I leaned forward and touched Linda’s lap gently. She snapped out of it and looked at me. Then she began to cry. Kyle had broken the woman in irreparable ways.

I went to sit next to her so she could rest her head on my shoulder. She did so and wept.

Linda did not utter a word, but Avery complained all through. We made some long stops, and I wondered what they stopped to do, but because we were not let down, we could not see or know what they were doing at the various stops.

Linda eventually fell asleep; gradually, sleep came for me too.

I felt someone tapping me, and I woke up. I found myself resting on Avery’s shoulder; she was awake. I must have slept all through.

“They want us to get down,” Avery said, and I looked around, a bit disoriented. Then I remembered what had happened.

The van door opened; Avery was the first to get out, followed by Linda and me.

I was shocked to see we were at a hangar, and a jet was waiting for us.

“Get in, Lunas, do not keep us waiting,” a man said.

I knew the north was far, so I was grateful they would spare us the trouble of driving all the way there.

“Not all the captives get this privilege; move it,” a man said, pushing Linda to move.

“Hey, take it easy. Can’t you see she isn’t well?” I told the man coming to Linda’s defence.

He walked up to me and smiled, then landed a painful slap on my cheek. It stung badly, and I had silver on, so I knew his hands would print on my cheek.

“This isn’t your pack, bitch, and you aren’t my Luna. You are a trophy, a glorified slave. If you talk back at me again, I will make it worse,” he said calmly, and I made sure his face registered because there was no way he was going to get away with that. No one slaps me and gets away with it. I might have

decided not to fight by my husband’s side, but I will not take shit from anyone. I remained silent and made a mental note.

We got into the jet. We were all given seats. I wondered what happened to the other Alphas that didn’t have a luna to offer or refused to provide their Lunas as a peace offering. Were they dead? or did they manage to push back? Were we the ones that got the brunt of the attack being the first packs to be hit before the others?

We were served food and had to manage to eat in chains. The distance between my right hand and left wasn’t much, so every time I put the food in my mouth, I had to lift the other hand.

I stared out the window, wondering what Leo was doing right now. If he was okay and glad to be rid of me. I guess I would never find out because that aspect of my life was over.

I said goodbye long ago, but I am doing it now.

The jet landed, and we were ushered out of the aircraft, loaded into a black van and taken to goddess knows where.

Avery wasn't so chatty after the slap I received. According to her, it was still printed on my face.

The van arrived at an ancient castle-like estate, and we were led in by the bastard who slapped me.

We followed quietly. With Linda's walking, I knew she would pass out soon. I hoped they take us to our cells so she could rest.

The castle was cold, old and dark, but it had the taste of affluence. It was like a beautiful antique that was well cared for. I knew the Dark Alpha came from old money but seeing this castle, I needed help to guess how old.

We were taken to a room and asked to wait, standing. A few minutes later, a tall, dark-skinned, brown-haired, grey-eyed man walked in. He was brawny and wore a black shirt that hugged his muscles tightly. He had long hair, which he packed in a ponytail. His beard was bushy, but it didn't hide his pink lips. The man was handsome, and he walked up to us with a stern face.

"Are these the trophies?" He asked, and the bastard that slapped me stepped forward.

"Yes, Gamma, These are the lunas; the others will arrive soon. They are travelling by road," he said, and I realised we were in the presence of the third man in charge.

"So they surrendered," he said.

"Brent and Hill Valley. Mountain didn't. She gave herself up to save him." He said, pointing at me. The man looked at me and squinted.

"What is your name, Luna?" He asked me, and I knew I shouldn't keep eye contact, but I couldn't help it. It wasn't in my nature to cower.

"Tamia Albert," I said as respectfully as I could manage. He lifted my chin and examined the handprint on my cheek.

“Who hit you, Tamia?” He asked me calmly and very gently too. I did not hesitate to point at the bastard.

“He did,” I said quickly, hoping that would get him in trouble. The man released my chin and turned towards the asshole.

“Did you do that, Kappa?” He asked, and I could not believe he was a bloody kappa.

“She was being mouthy,” he said quickly.

“She is a luna; what did you expect? Besides, you know how the Alpha feels about tampering with his things. Did she pose a threat to you?” He asked him, and the man shook his head.

“Then why hit a defenceless woman?” he asked, and the man could not answer.

“Did you somehow feel threatened by her, or were you overcompensating for something?” He asked, and I wanted to laugh, but I held it. The kappa became scared.

“How do I explain this to Alpha? His gifts are meant to be well cared for, and you know it,” he said before the man could say anything. The Gamma punched his jaw, and we all heard a crack. I did not need anyone to point out what that meant. The Kappa’s jaw had been shifted.

“Only the Alpha, beta and I are allowed to touch these women.” He said to the kappa and then turned to us.

“My apologies, ladies. That would never happen again. I must assure you, northern men are civilised and professional. He will be dealt with accordingly.” He said, and I swallowed without saying a word.

“What does the Alpha want to use us for?” Avery asked him, and he stepped to her and sniffed the air around her.

“Never mind. He doesn’t touch used goods,” he said to her, and I felt relief because the last thing I wanted was to end up as a sex slave in the north. We were used goods alright. Used and abused.

“When the others arrive, take them to the Alpha so he can choose the ones he wants.

Let the lunas rest while we wait for the rest of the trophies,” he ordered and walked away. I did not know what he meant by choosing, but it didn’t sit well with me.

~Leo~

I woke up in wolf form. Amanda knelt beside me, and she was weeping. I did not know what had happened. Did they conquer us while I was out of it?

I shifted back to my human form, and she hugged me tightly and wept.

I searched about for Tamia. The last time I remembered, three of us were in the living room when the intruders barged in.

I broke the hug and gently got up to look at the mess that was once my living room. There was nothing to salvage. I had to replace everything.

“Where is Tamia?” I asked Amanda, and she continued to cry on the floor.

“Where is my wife? What happened?” I asked, and she managed to get up.

“They were trying to take you away as a

trophy. You were almost dead. So she gave herself up in your stead. I tried to talk her out of it, but she shut me out. They took her away in chains, Leo. We stood no chance. The attack ended the moment they took her, “Amanda said, rushing through her words, but I was lost from the moment she said Tamia gave herself up.

I fell to my knees and roared with anger. I punched the ground until my knuckles bled.

Tears were streaming down my cheeks. There was pain deep in my soul. How much pain did we have to endure? Who did we offend to warrant such a terrible life? First, our happily ever after was disrupted by my fated, and now this. There was no way I could get her back.

“Why!” I yelled, my soul in pain and my heart breaking.

How could I lose her? The last words we spoke to each other were painful. She felt I had wronged her terribly, and I was determined to fix it. I wanted children with her too. I would have made an effort. Tamia was my best friend before we got married. I felt like shit, and slowly rage rose in me against Kyle and Devin.

Why did Kyle look for trouble and bring this upon us? I had warned him to be careful that the Dark Alpha wasn't so forgiving, but he felt Devin would be there to rescue us.

Devin took land, money and tributes from us and did not come to our aid when needed.

He might argue the attack was sudden, but that was what Alphas trained for, to counter sudden attacks. He should have had men here to help us.

I roared. My sweet Tamia is gone because Kyle chose to look for trouble. I got off the floor and went to our bedroom. I looked around and felt like shit. Everything Way that transpired between us after the whole fated shit happened played in my mind, and I wished I could take it all back.

I wished I never went to the stupid party Casper invited us to. Our lives were perfect. She was perfect for me, and I knew she loved me. I knew that love made her give herself up for my sake. She was good at studying situations and understanding them. She believed it would be best if she gave herself

I shouldn't have told her Amanda was expecting. I saw the joy drain from her eyes and the hurt that replaced it.

I knew she wanted children, but I wanted us to enjoy our lives a bit before having pups. The thing with Amanda was sudden and unplanned, but I felt like shit because I had hurt that woman.

Amanda knocked on the door, and I could not let her enter Tamia's room. She might not be here, but no woman would enter her room or replace her.

It was now official that the Mountain pack no longer had a Luna. Amanda will never replace her. Fate had taken everything from us. Our joy, our strength and our happy ending. I planned on holding on to whatever was left of us.

I stepped out of the room, still naked, and she searched my eyes.

“What will we do, Leo? How will we get her back?” Amanda asked, and I did not know how to respond. No one dared go against the Dark Alpha. He was like a god. We would stand a better chance if the entire region joined with the south and went after him, but no one will want to risk that for my Tamia.

“We can’t get her back unless he lets her go, “I confessed to Amanda, and tears streamed down her face. I thought the news would make her happy, but I guess her life was just as fucked up as ours.

“I thought you would be happy?” I said to her, trying to understand why she was sad.

“Luna Tamia didn’t have to give herself up. She could have pointed at me as your fated. I was more valuable than she was, but she chose to protect both of us. I owe her my life and freedom, Leo. I can never be happy that something happened to her. Fate messed us all up. It brought me into your happy lives. I thought it was a game and I should just take you from her because you are mine, but after everything, I realised the way I behaved and the lies I told just to get her out of the picture were cruel and unnecessary. How will I atone for my wickedness?” She said in tears and I wondered how many lies she had told.

“What lies, Amanda?” I asked her, and she bowed her head and moved away from me.

“I lied against you that we went all the way in the balcony. Then I lied that Luna Tamia sent men after me to kill me. That man we locked up was paid and compelled by my

father,” She said, telling me things I already knew. I did not bother to say anything; I just walked away from her. I picked up a pair of shorts and headed out to see what was left of my pack. 1

As I walked, I saw people mourning, but they all looked at me with respect. I am sure they believed I had given up Tamia for their sake, but they were wrong.

Had Tamia not given herself up, they would have all died because I wouldn’t have given her up. I would have died instead.

People began to stand up and pay their respect as I walked past them.

They knew the attack wasn't my fault. I could not receive their thanks because it wasn't mine to take.

Tamia was the true hero and the best Luna this pack had ever had. Too bad they will no longer have a Luna again because I won't marry Amanda. I can never replace my Emerald Queen, not in a million years.

I headed to the meeting early in the morning the next day. All the Alphas present were livid. Some had to give their daughters up as peace offerings while others died. Only two people gave their Luna, and I knew why.

Their Luna didn't mean shit to them. Kyle was the worst of them all because he caused the war. The moment I saw him and rushed at him, I began hitting him. I was furious.

"You bastard!" I said, straddling and punching him on the ground.

"My Tamia is gone because of you," I said. I felt my rage rising.

"Get off him, Leo. You won't solve the problem like this," I heard someone say, but I could not care. Eventually, I pulled off him, and I yelled profanities at the bastard.

"I did not do anything!" he yelled back.

"I was just as shocked at everyone when they attacked. They said I messed with the western border, which is now their territory, but I didn't. They said I called the Dark Alpha out, and I didn't, I swear. I can never do that. I do not know how they linked that shit to me. You have to believe me, Leo." Kyle said, and I did not believe him.

"I have lost everything," I said in tears, thinking of Tamia. I wondered how she was faring and what they were doing to her. I could not hold myself anymore. Max hugged me, but I refused to be held.

I was a broken man long before the attack, but this had just wrecked me completely.

"It is easy for you two to take this calmly. You wanted your Lunas out of the way so you could be with your fated, but I didn't want Tamia out of the picture. I wanted to keep her," I said, and Max pleaded with me to be calm.

"We need to get them back," I said, sounding frantic.

"No, Leo. Cut your losses and move on. Maybe that was why fate sent Amanda your way, to prepare you for this," Dickson said, and I growled at him.

"Don't you ever mention that word to me again! Fate is a dirty word that brings pain and misfortune and ruins perfect lives." I said to him, and he was silent.

"Alpha Kyle and Max have made peace with their loss, and the rest of us too. We all gave our daughters or sisters. It was a hard choice, but we made it. Do not expect us to go to war with the monster because of your Luna; you dare not do it on your own because you will fail and bring his wrath upon us. Forget about her. Tamia is a strong woman. I am sure she will survive whatever happens in the north," He said, and I growled. I was confused and powerless.

"Where is the bastard Devin that we allied with?" Max asked Kyle because it was Kyle that introduced us to Devin. I remembered the bastard. He flirted with my wife and tried to fuck her on the dancefloor right before my eyes. We gave him his respect, and he did. not fulfil his duty.

"Where is he? Where is Bane! It seems all he is good at is flirting with other people's wives," Max said and looked at me to Apologise.

"No offence Leo, but the bastard was all over your wife the last time. He was also unapologetic about it. He should have the same unapologetic determination towards his duty." Max said, and I did not say anything. I was too angry to care.

"He is coming. He said the south was under attack at the same time, and he had to defend his region. I have sent people to confirm his excuse," Kyle said, and I did not care; I just walked out of the meeting. There was no solution to my problems there. If I couldn't get Tamia back, I had no business fighting with them or making plans. I would instead go home and lick my wounds.

-Tamia-

After waiting for hours in a room unattended, we were carried to what looked like a throne room and forced to kneel. To my surprise, I saw alphas' daughters and sisters from our region in chains, kneeling. We were made to kneel with our heads bowed.

"The Alpha will examine you all. Those fit for his harem will be chosen. Those fit to serve will be chosen. Those yet to be placed will be reserved. Do not aggravate the Alpha by smiling or looking into his eyes. It might mean instant death for you. Being a beautiful, alluring woman means nothing to him. So do not think your beauty will entice him. If you aren't a virgin, quickly state it, so we do not put you in the harem," a hefty dark man said.

He had long hair and a beard too. He packed it in a ponytail. His eyes were midnight blue, and He looked handsome. From the authority he exuded, if he wasn't the Alpha, then I was guessing he was the Beta, and it seemed Avery had the hots for the man. Too bad there was nothing attractive about the things he was saying.

"Am I clear?" The man said, and we all bowed our heads in response.

No one knew what to call him, and I had learned silence was the best way to deal with such situations.

"Very well then," he said.

We remained on our knees for a while until a sudden pressure overwhelmed us.

It was dark, and it pressed down on us. I did not need to guess who had entered. I fought the urge to look up and see him, but it took a lot of time and effort.

"Are these the trophies?" I heard a deep, commanding and alluring voice ask. There was a gentleness and sternness to his tone that words could not describe.

"These are the daughters, untouched. Those are sisters, and those three are Lunas." I heard the man describing us to his Alpha.

"I see," He said, and he was silent. I heard footsteps.

"Service," I heard the Alpha say.

I heard him walk through his trophies. He said the same thing over and over again. He said “reserve” but never said harem. I wondered when he would say harem, but he did not say the word.

Soon I felt him close to me, and my heart began to pound in my chest. I saw his feet in front of me. He wore a slipper, and his feet were gigantic, easily twelve inches. I felt his warm hand on my chin, and he lifted my face.

Against my better judgment, I stared into his eyes. I looked right at him, going against everything the other man had said, and I knew I had a defiant look on my face because I felt I shouldn't be on my knees.

His eyes were dark, his hair was long and black, and he let it fall. His beard was clean, and his lips were something else. He had a masculine handsomeness only dreamt of in fantasy books. He was tall. The man was brawny. Sculpted to perfection. It took a lot not to wander with my eyes. His bronze-like skin spoke of power, only the type a warrior would have spending time in the sun. The north was cold, so I guess he got his tan from his trips.

I swallowed and stared at him, and he looked right into my eyes.

I held his gaze, never looking away, defiant as always, daring him to do his worse, daring him to draft me, daring him to speak his words.

It was as if we were both in a trance, but he held my chin up, and I watched the words escape his lips.

“Mine,” he said and did not bother to check Avery or Linda. He turned around and walked away. I saw a perfect view of his arse, and I wanted to drool.

I didn't wonder about his words until he had walked out of the room. ‘Mine’ did not fit the categories the other guy had explained to us, so I wondered what it meant.

The ladies were ushered out, but Avery,

Linda and me were left on our knees. The Gamma that saw us initially walked in to join the other guy. Seeing how the Gamma respected the guy, I realised he was the Beta.

“Alpha personally wants the green eyes for himself,” the Beta told him, and he smiled.

“The defiant one?” He asked the Beta, and the Beta looked at me and wondered.

“What did she do?” He asked.

“Got on Kappa Willson’s nerves on their way here. Very feisty woman. I also heard she surrendered herself willingly. Her husband wouldn’t give her up. She gave herself up as a gift offering,” the Gamma said, and the Beta smiled.

“I want the one in the middle. You can have the last one.” the Beta said, and I knew the one in the middle was Avery while the last one was Linda.

“I had my eyes on her since she got here.” The Gamma said, glad that the Beta left Linda for him, and I felt like a commodity.

These men did not value women at all. Little wonder there was no Luna in the north.

Women could only lead where they were respected.

The dark Alpha had chosen wrong because I did not plan to make anything easy for him.

I had nothing to lose at this point. Fate had taken everything from me. I was making my destiny henceforth.

We were asked to stand up, and some women with their heads bowed came to take us away.

We were led to a large bath that looked like an indoor pool. The water was steaming, and there were rose petals in it. We were stripped down and asked to get into the water while the women washed our bodies and hair.

“I can get used to this type of treatment, Tamia. If this is what being a captive in the north is like, sign me up,” Avery said, enjoying the treatment.

“Are you excited?” She asked me, and I shook my head.

“These men conquered our packs and took us from our husbands; I doubt they will be kind, Avery. We have to be careful.” I warned her, and she nodded.

“Whatever it is, I am sure it is better than where I came from. You do not know what it feels like to be beaten and abused every time,” she said with tears welling up in her eyes.

“Sometimes Max will force me to shift and beat Mia with silver so the scars won’t show on my body,” She said, and I gasped.

“I could not tell you half of what I was going through with Max because I did not want you to panic. I was happy and jealous when I realised your life would not be the same. So if I have to be the Beta’s whore, I will take it. Any life is better than where I am coming from,” she said.

“Why did he do that?” I asked her, and she bowed her head.

“Michelle blamed her miscarriages on me. She lied against me severely. Saying I tried to kill her, poison her, beat her, name it, and he always took her side against me. Soon I stopped defending myself.” She said, and

Linda sighed.

“Same here. That bitch Rebecca was no good, either. She always lied against me, and Kyle being the douchebag he is, did everything to please her. I didn’t start cheating by choice, Tamia; Kyle often asked his men to help him where I was concerned. He would watch and then go to her. He had some sick fantasies in his head. I hope he rots in hell. I hope he gets what he deserves. I hope the dark Alpha invades Brent again and, this time, takes his bitch from him. I will laugh at him. I have just one goal now,

Tamia, which is getting even with Kyle. I will get my revenge one way or the other. The bastard never loved me. He only married me for my lands and money. Now he has it all. The bastard,” she said, and I was shocked.

“Why didn’t you tell me any of these?” I asked them, and they chuckled.

“Are you kidding me? There was no way we could tell you. Leo talks to our mates; what if you tell or fight him over it, and he calls Max or Kyle? Besides, it was obvious you might suffer the same injustice as we did, so we let you have your own experience. Whether you like it or not, Leo did show you a lot of love against his wolf’s wishes, and now the Dark Alpha wants you,” she teased, changing the topic, and I did not know how to feel.

“He declared ownership of you, Tamia. Not service, harem or reserve. He declared ownership. He said, Mine.” Avery said, and I smiled at her.

Somehow she felt it was a good thing, but based on all I have learned about the man; I doubt that will be good.

They dressed us up in sexy silk, sheer gowns and took us to a small room that was brightly lit.

It had a small dining table that could only seat eight people. I called the dining small because as we walked through the hall, I saw a massive dining table. I did not stop to count the chairs, but I guessed they could seat twenty-two people.

There was a variety of food on the table, and we were asked to eat. We were also given a time frame. One hour was all we had to stuff our faces with food. We did not eat much because we weren't hungry. Once we were done, they separated us. They sent us to separate wings of the castle. Because we had no silver on, we were able to link ourselves.

The moment I entered the room allocated to me, I exhaled.

I remember all that happened and where I was coming from. I was nervous. I did not know what life would be like in the north, but I wished Leo was alright.

I hoped he moved on from me and forgot about me because if the Dark Alpha grants me freedom, I would not be returning to him.

I sat on the couch in the room, waiting for what was to happen.

I heard the doorknob turn, and I wasn't surprised to see the Dark Alpha, Sylvester Volkov, walk in.

The pressure of his presence was intense, but I held firm.

He wasn't decked up like in the throne room. He had a loosely fitted cotton shirt that he did not button all the way up, and he wore shorts. He was easy on the eyes, but I wasn't fooled by his looks.

I stood up and looked at him. He sat down on the single chair in the room and examined the sexy outfit they had put on me.

“Bold,” he said, and I did not say a word, but I chose to maintain a tough exterior.

“Do you know what happens to people that look into my eyes without permission?” he asked.

“Educate me,” I replied, and he laughed.

“How old are you?” He asked me.

“I am twenty-four years young,” I replied, and he smiled.

“Matured, bold and beautiful.” He said and stood, then walked to me.

“No woman has ever caught my attention before. Tell me, green eyes, why did you give yourself up?” He asked me, walking close to

“It is better than allowing your men to destroy everything and everyone I care about,” I said, and he smiled.

“Luna material. Leonardo Albert chose well, but he is too weak for you,” He said gently, and I did not respond.

“Relax, I do not use your type for entertainment,” he said, and I sighed.

“Of course, the Lord of wolves does not get involved with used goods,” I said, and he moved so swiftly I did not see it.

His hands went for my neck, and he wrapped and squeezed gently, staring into my eyes. I held his gaze, but my heart was racing. I fought myself to be calm. My wolf was panicking, thinking we had overstepped.

“Never call yourself that, green eyes; you are Mine,” He said and gently let me go. He leaned close to my neck and breathed in my scent. Then walked out of the room. I fell to the ground. My heart was pounding in my chest, and my hands and legs were shaking. What had just happened?