

Excerpt

For the Love of Tia

Dragon Lords of Valdier book 4.1

By S. E. Smith

Tia sighed as she ran her delicate fingers over the smooth surface of the scroll. Her eyes stared blankly at the intricate illustrations and the symbols carefully describing each legend. Her tiny, light green ears flickered back and forth at the sound of rapidly approaching footsteps drawing her out of her trance. She knew immediately who it was – her brother Tamblin.

She quickly rolled the scroll and hid it behind one of the colorful fabric tapestries she had hanging in her room. She didn't want him to know that she had been writing down the stories of their people, at least not yet. He would be deeply concerned if he knew and become even more protective of her.

Tia closed her large brown eyes and drew in a deep breath in an effort to calm the fast beat of her heart. Every third beat, it would stop and she was terrified it would not start again. It was happening more often and lasting longer each time. She opened her eyes and forced a smile onto her face as her brother swept aside the long curtain door of her chambers.

"Tia, I have need of you," Tamblin said in his deep, rich voice. "A creature has been captured at the

entrance to our caverns. It is very large and strange-looking.”