

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 99

Chapter 0099

Hi — I just wanted to write a quick note to clarify a few things and give you an idea of what to expect.

First, thank you to everyone who has supported this story with gems, comments, and just by reading it at

all.

Second, this is NOT a multiple mate story.

Third, many of you have tried to predict who Lily will end up with. I love reading the guesses! Please

know that I have purposely made it difficult to predict. It is not because I want to torture you or drag this

out, but rather because the characters need to grow and evolve, especially given some of the trauma and

manipulation that they have been working through. There will continue to be some bumps along the way,

but I hope that it all makes sense in the end. I have definitely been dropping subtle hints here and there,

but I hope at least a few of the bumps will surprise you.

Fourth, many of the characters have conflicting emotions and they seem to waver back and forth. That is on purpose, because that is reality. When it comes to love, trauma, and emotional subjects, human nature very rarely lets us have consistent perspectives on it, even in our own hearts and in the moment. Growth usually happens slowly over time, as we begin to reconcile the conflicts we are feeling.

Fifth, I am trying to update as quickly as I can. As an active reader myself, I know how frustrating it can be to have to wait for updates. I am going to continue to do daily updates until the story is done, which I hope to be by mid-November. I usually post the chapters as they are ready, so sometimes there

will be a chapter in the morning and a chapter in the late evening or sometimes just one chapter per day. Believe me that I want the story done as much as you do, and I hope to use weekends to write extra chapters to

get us to that finish line.

Finally, as you leave feedback, please know that although writing has become a recent hobby for me, I am

anything but a professional.

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 100

Chapter 0100

(Lily POV)

James and I placed an indefinite “pause” on our twenty-questions game. There were still plenty of

questions that we both had, and we still had plenty to talk about, but somehow nothing seemed that

important anymore.

We sat by the fire for another 45 minutes, enjoying the limited time that we had left together. A few

times, I was tempted to tell him that I had changed my mind about our future, but I knew that I could not

do that. At least not right now. As much as it hurt to let him go, I knew it would hurt more to let go of

myself again.

Instead of any more serious topics, we spent our remaining time chatting about lighter subjects. I was

surprised to find out that we had the same favorite human baseball team, and that our perspectives on

some of the recent scandals impacting that team were pretty similar. We also talked about some of the

dreams that James had as a little kid, before he realized his destiny had already been chosen for him

through his birthright. I was amused to hear that he wanted to be in a rock n' roll band, especially

because he readily admitted that he cannot sing and has no musical talent. He had also dreamed of

being an astronaut, a lawyer, an automobile mechanic, and –not surprising at all– a professional baseball

player.

At one point in the discussion about our dreams, James had a sudden realization. Turning to me, he

commented:

“You know, Lily, your destiny was chosen for you too. You were born to be a Luna. I wish more than

anything that you still could be, but I guess the silver lining is that now you are free to become a doctor

and follow any other dreams that you might have.”

I teared up again when he made that comment, so we quickly changed the subject to something happier, but it definitely stuck with me. Was James' observation correct? In choosing not to be with James, was I choosing to ignore my Goddess-intended destiny? If so, was my choice selfish and short-sighted, or was it healthy and freeing?

I suppose only time would tell.

Eventually, I yawned, and we both knew that we needed to call it a night. I agreed to let James walk me back to my hotel room.

That ended up being one of two very big mistakes, both of which would cause a ripple effect of problems in the future.

“Where is Brady’s room?” James asked as we got closer to mine.

“One floor up, why?”

“He did not get a room next to you or on your floor?”

“No, there are guards in the rooms all around me on this floor, but Brady wanted to be in the room directly above mine because there is a fire escape that connects the rooms. He also said something about being able to hear better through the venting system than through the walls. Why all the questions?”

Just then, we arrived at my room. Without thinking, I unlocked the door and opened it. That was the

second big mistake that I made.

I watched as James immediately picked up on a scent and stormed past me into my room without asking. He went over to my bed and picked up the pillow that Brady had slept on the night before. My heart dropped as James turned to face me with rage in his eyes. I could tell he was struggling with Luke

for control.

“I thought you said that you and Brady did not share a room,” he said. He was not yelling at me, but the

anger in his voice was unmistakable.

“Brady and I have our own rooms, James. I did not lie about that.”

And then the yelling started.

“THEN WHY DO I SMELL A MALE ALPHA WOLF IN YOUR ROOM, AND ON YOUR PILLOW?”

James’ eyes were now dark brown, which meant Luke had taken over control. I had never seen angry

Luke before.

I was trying to figure out how to answer honestly without upsetting him more, when Luke yelled again.

“THE ONLY MALE ALPHA WOLF AT THIS RESORT OTHER THAN ME IS BRADY. THIS IS BRADY’S SCENT, IS IT NOT?”

I sighed. “Yes, but —”

“DID YOU SLEEP WITH HIM?”

“Luke, calm down.”

“ANSWER ME. DID YOU SLEEP WITH HIM?”

“No, Luke. I mean, yes, but not in the way that you think. We did not have sex. Please, give James

control back. I will explain it to him.”

“YOU ARE MY MATE, NOT HIS!”

“Luke, please. Just let me talk to James again, okay?”

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 101

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Chapter 0101

“NO! TELL ME!”

Just then, Rose decided to force herself through and respond to her wolf-mate herself.

“Back off, you big ape. Lily is not going to explain anything to either of you while you are yelling at her,

and neither am I. Give your human his body back.”

“Rose, baby, I—”

“Do not baby me, Luke. Our humans need to work things out for themselves.”

“I want to spend time with you, Rose,” Luke complained.

As I watched the interaction, I could not help but be amazed at how quickly Luke went from screaming

cave man to pitiful pup. It was nothing short of bizarre, and all it took was Rose stepping forward.

“The humans have to figure things out, Luke. It is easier for us than it is for them. Let them try to make

things work.”

“But they aren’t working anything out!” Luke protested.

“Give James back control, Luke,” Rose repeated.

Luke must have reluctantly agreed, because James’ eyes returned to blue and Rose stepped back again.

Unfortunately, James’ blue eyes were just as angry as Luke’s brown ones.

“So?” he asked in a rude tone of voice.

“So what?”

“Tell me why Brady’s scent is on your pillow,” he demanded.

There was no easy way around this. I decided to just lay it all out there.

“He spent the night here last night.

“WHAT?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!”

“Relax, James. Nothing happened. I mean, something happened, but not sex. We didn’t even get close

to having sex. We just kissed.”

James' jaw stiffened and his eyes got more and more angry. "Why. Was. He. Here?"

I sighed. "He was drunk and upset. I let him stay."

"Do you let every drunk and upset male sleep in bed with you?" James asked me accusingly.

Wow. Now he was starting to remind me of the old James, and I was getting angry. "No, you a&&hole.

Brady has done a lot for me. I was not going to just kick him out of my room when he was upset and

needed me."

"BUT I AM YOUR MATE, NOT HIM! YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO BRING HIM INTO YOUR BED."

Yes, I was definitely angry now.

"Funny, because until today, you did not act like my mate. BUT BRADY HAS FOR WEEKS! BRADY CARES

ABOUT ME! HE HAS NEVER GIVEN ME ANY REASON TO DOUBT HIM! If I want to be there for him, I will

be."

"HE HAS NO RIGHT TO CARE ABOUT YOU LIKE THAT!"

James did not realize it, but that last sentence was a "mic-drop" moment. With that single sentence,

James reminded me of our past, and of all the reasons that being with him did not make sense.

I spoke my next words quietly, and with as much venom as I could muster.

"I am glad to see that old James has re-surfaced. Welcome back."

"WHAT?" He exclaimed in both anger and confusion.

“Did you hear your words, James? ‘He has no right to care about you like that.’ Do you remember the last

time you said those words to me?”

I watched as James’ face began to pale. Just like his wolf, James’ emotions could apparently change on a dime. “Lily —”

“I was 16. I had no friends anymore, because you made sure that everyone knew that I was to be treated as an outcast. The only parties and events I went to were the ones hosted by the pack that everyone was supposed to attend.

But then there was a transfer student from another pack, and he did not know about your stupid rules. He and I became friends. We hung out from time to time. He took me to a couple of smaller parties. And when the high school planned a winter dance, he invited me to go with him.

Somehow you found out. You came storming up to my parents’ suite. You and I had a fight very similar to the one we just had, except that I was arguing that I had the right to have a friend who cared about me, and you insisted that Levi had no right to care about me like that. Because, why? Oh, I remember. Because I was a shitty murderer.

You then went to his family and threatened to have your dad banish them from the pack unless Levi

Do you

remember that James? Because I do. It was the one and only time in six years that anyone at

your pack tried to be my friend, and you ruined it.”

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Chapter 0102

(James POV)

I have never felt so angry or so jealous as I felt the moment that I found out that Brady spent the night in Lily's bed. In fact, Luke and I immediately began fighting for control, not because I wanted to hold him

back, but because we could not agree on which one of us got to confront Lily about it.

Luke won the original round, and he was doing great at first. However, as soon as Rose came forward, his anger immediately vanished. All he could see from that point forward was a rare opportunity to spend

quality time with his wolf-counterpart.

When Rose demanded that Luke give me back control, I almost laughed. I knew she did it because she

wanted to calm the situation down, but I was feeling anything but calm.

As soon as Luke gave me back control, I continued his interrogation of Lily.

As soon as Lily began to defend Brady, I began to fantasize about how many pieces I would have to slay

the asshole into before I would feel satisfied. If I only cut off his arms, would that make me feel better?

Or would I need to cut off his legs too? Should I go all out and cut off his dick as well?

The picture I had in my head of Brady with his dick cut off almost made me smile. Almost.

But then Lily made the problem worse by suggesting that Brady had been acting like her mate for weeks,

never giving her any reason to doubt him. I started to look outside for the fire escape that connected

their rooms, thinking I may not want to wait until morning to teach Brady not to mess with the mates of

other wolves.

Before I could jump out the window, however, I felt compelled to remind Lily that Brady had no right to

treat her that way; she was MY MATE. Not his..

And that is when everything really started to go sideways.

Lily responded to my sentiments about Brady by reminding me of an incident involving a wolf named

Levi. I immediately froze.

I knew (now) how badly I had messed up with the Levi situation, but honestly there had been many Levis

over the years, and I had dealt with all of them in pretty much the same way. I suppose Levi may have

been one of the few that Lily knew about, though, and there was the added complication that I had

actually chosen to confront her directly about his interest in her, which I normally never did.

Even so, recognizing that I did wrong in that situation and that at some point I owed an apology to Levi

and many other male wolves in our pack- had nothing to do with the reason that I froze.

I froze because even though the incident had happened several years ago I could still hear the pain and hurt in Lily's voice when she brought it up. And that was a sobering reminder of where she and I were

in our relationship right now.

It might sound strange, but it had not occurred to me until right then how much pressure I had been

putting on Lily. I had had weeks to re-consider and process my feelings, and to start to gather

information.

In the course of doing all of that, so much had happened, and so much had come out, that to me it felt like a lifetime had already passed. And so, for me, it made perfect sense to ask Lily if she was willing to

claim her rightful place as my mate and future Luna.

But for Lily... really, she had barely had a single day. She had no idea what I was coming to Hawaii for,

and she had no way to know if I was going to be the same arrogant jerk that I had been to her before the

rejection.

For me to put her on the spot when I asked about her future plans and whether I would see her again was

unfair. Of course, she turned me down. Of course, she got scared. She wanted safety, and there was no

way for her to feel any of that after just 24 hours, no matter how amazing those kisses were.

And yes, they were amazing. Absolutely, f&&king amazing.

So what was I to do now? The only thing I possibly could, and the only thing I would continue to do until

she either shut me out permanently or forgave me: apologize and explain.

I took in Lily, studying her face which was still consumed with hurt and anger.

“Lily, I —”

“What, James? You are sorry? Well, I guess what? I am sorry too. Because I wanted to believe that you

had changed, but it is clear to me that you still think the same things about me now that you used to think

back then. That I am a dirty sl ut who does not deserve to be loved.”

“No, Lily,” I said cautiously. “That is not it at all. I know I said some horrible things to you in the past, but I never meant them. None of what I said was true in the past, and those words are certainly not true

today.”

“Why would you say those things then?”

“Same reason that I just said them now. I was jealous. It is not an excuse, but it is the truth.”

“What? I mean, I get you being jealous now. But back then?”

“Lily, the idea of you being around other male wolves has never NOT pissed me off. It pissed me off even before Stephanie died, and it definitely pissed me off afterwards. Levi was only one of many male wolves

that I had to threaten to stay away from you.”

“But I thought you did all of that for revenge? Because I killed your precious Stephanie?”

“Yes, that was a big part of it. I will not deny it. However, knowing what I know now, when I look back on my memories of that time period, I can see that there was more to it than just that. The anger that I felt

went beyond just revenge.”

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Chapter 0103

(James POV)

“I do not understand. What are you trying to say?” Lily asked.

Her voice was starting to calm down now. Good.

“After Stephanie died, I thought about you all of the time. It was distracting. In fact, I could not even stomach the idea of being intimate with other she-wolves, because every time that I even thought about

sex, I thought about you.

For a while, it got so bad that I started to wonder if I had become an f&&king pedophile. But I knew I was

not one, so I jumped to what I thought was the next logical conclusion.”

“Which was?”

“That I was thinking about you all the time because I missed and loved Stephanie, and you were my

brain’s way of reminding me about all that I had lost. Given that we have a six–year age difference

between us and given that I had always been brought up to believe that Stephanie was my mate, it never

occurred to me that it could be anything else.

I

But looking back on it...knowing what I know now... I can see it clearly now. It makes perfect sense.

thought of you all the time, and I got upset at you spending time with male wolves, not because you killed your sister but because you were my mate. The mate bond between us was already taking effect. I just

did not realize it, because it was far too early for either of us to know it yet.”

“James, I... I would like to ask you sort of an awkward question.”

I grabbed her hand.

“Go ahead, Lily. You can ask me anything. We will call this question a freebie.”

She sighed.

“I do not know if I am prepared to hear the answer to the question that I want to ask.”

“I have a guess as to what she wants to ask. Tell her to ask it anyway.”

“Luke thinks he knows what you want to ask me. He said that you should go ahead and ask.”

“I thought Luke was mad at me.”

“Eh, we are both mad at you. But we will get back to the Brady thing later. First, let’s finish this

conversation.”

She looked down. “You said that you thought of me constantly, and that every time you thought about sex, you thought about me. But I know about the arrangements that you had with Sheila and her friends. Everyone does. Did you... did you think of me when you were... having sex with them?”

“BINGO. I was right,” Luke bragged.

I let go of Lily’s hand, turned away from her, and ran my hands through my hair. I started to debate if I was really prepared to tell Lily my deepest, darkest, most embarrassing secret.

“You have to. She deserves to know. Rip the band–aid off, once and for all. It may help her to trust us

again,” Luke begged me.

I sighed.

“I never slept with a single one of them.” I said calmly.

“There, I said it,” I linked Luke.

“What?” Lily exclaimed.

“You have gone this far; you might as well tell her everything,” Luke linked.

Stupid wolf. I had to wonder if he would be this insistent if he had had the same problems I had had.

“James, what... what are you saying? How could it be that you never slept with any of them? Do you

mean literal sleep or do you mean sex?”

I took another deep breath and sat down on Lily’s bed. Instantly getting another large whiff of Brady’s scent, I jumped up and moved to one of the guest chairs.

Here went nothing.

“Let me explain.

As you know, if there is one thing that alpha wolves are known for, it is their high sex drives.

I already told you that after Stephanie died, I could not get you out of my head. I also already told you that I started to worry that I was a f&&king pedophile. I also wondered around that time if Stephanie’s death had somehow ruined me for life. Both possibilities were huge problems.

My dad already thought that I was broken, and he was questioning whether I was too weak to ever be an

alpha. Little did I know at the time that was partly a problem of my parents’ own making, but that is a

story for a different day.

The bottom line is that I started to worry what would happen if it somehow got out that I was a virgin, or

somehow missing or defective.

She-wolves started throwing themselves at me not even a week after Stephanie died, but I got a pass for

in mourning. a while, because everyone thought I was turning down the sex because I was i

However, I knew that it could not last forever. So I did what a lot of guys do, unfortunately. I lied.

themselves at

You see, I had pretty quickly figured out that many of the she-wolves who were throwing me did not give two sh&ts about me personally. All they really cared about were the social benefits that could come from banging the alpha-heir.

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Chapter 0104

And that gave me an idea.

I picked a few unmated she-wolves who I thought could keep a secret, and who I knew wanted the social

benefits. I then entered into arrangements with them. And before you ask, I had to have more than one

she-wolf, because if there was just one, there might be pressure to eventually take that she-wolf as a

chosen mate, and I did not want to be forced to be mated to a superficial she-wolf who only cared about

her social standing.

Also, there was a reason that the arrangements were always described as 'arrangements.' It kept it

ambiguous and somewhat impersonal. The deal was, the she-wolves would take turns sleeping on the

couch in my bedroom. They would dress provocatively when they came in, but all they would do while in

my room was play on their phones, watch TV, or sleep.

To the outside world, though, it would appear that we were having sex. A condition of the deal was that

they never tell a soul about what was happening in my room. I did not have the benefit of an alpha-

command yet, but I made all sorts of threats to ensure total confidentiality.”

Lily sat there staring at me, her mouth slightly open.

“Wait... why did you not just... force yourself to have sex anyway? Even if you had to think of me while you

did it?”

Sh&t. I was hoping she would not ask this question.

“Tell her, James. That way I do not have to be the only one who makes fun of you for it.”

“Shut up, Luke.”

“James?”

“Having sex would require my penis cooperating. And it would not do so. I could get hard if I thought of you, but I hated doing that because you were underage most of those years and I also really did believe that your actions caused Stephanie to die. But even when I got desperate for relief and thought of you, all it took was for another female to walk into the room, and I was done. My erection never lasted.”

“So.... you are telling me that you are a virgin? What about my sister?”

I sighed.

“Yes, I am a virgin. Your sister and I never crossed that line; we had agreed to wait until the mate bond kicked in so that our first time would be extra special.

And

your

reaction right now is exactly why I had to keep it a secret.

I used to be really embarrassed about it, but again, now it all makes sense. It was the mate bond this

whole time, and I was just too stupid to see it.”

“And now?”

“Do you mean, can I get it up now? Yes. Since I have been here in Hawaii with you, all I have to do is look at you and I’m hard. You may not have noticed how many times I have had to adjust myself today.”

“James, have you seen a doctor about this? I mean, what happens if...”

I

I swallowed hard. “What happens if I cannot convince you to come back with me? Am I prepared to die

a virgin?”

Lily looked at me with embarrassed eyes. “Yes.”

“I do not plan to die a virgin, Lily. I haven’t given up hope that I can fix things somehow and bring you

home.”

“But, James, we already talked about this. ... I don’t know if I can ever do that.”

“I know, Lily, but I still want to try. I do not expect you to come back with me tomorrow or even next week

or next month. But I do want you to give me a chance to make the pack a safe place for you again.

“But what if you can’t? Or.... what if you can and I still do feel not comfortable going back?”

“I will not force you to do anything you do not want to do, Lily.”

”

She sat down on her bed and laid back on her pillow, clearly overwhelmed. Unfortunately, that was all it

took to remind me of where the conversation in this room started. I felt the sudden rage building up in

me again.

I stood up.

“Lily?”

“Yes?”

“Tried.”

She sat up. “About what part?”

“The part where I said I would not force you to do anything you do not want to do.”

“Huh?”

I went over and picked her up, throwing her over my shoulder. “You are spending the night in my room tonight. Don’t worry; there are two beds in my room and I will not try anything. I just cannot stomach you

laying in a bed or on a pillow that is coated in Brady’s scent.”

“JAMES!” she yelled, squirming.

“Sorry, Lily. But you are going to have to give me tonight.”

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 105

Chapter 0105 (Lily POV) James carries me to his hotel room, while I try-but fail- to resist. “Liar. You aren’t even trying that hard,” Rose linked me. “He is way taller and stronger than me,” I remind her. “How can I fight him off?” “Um, with your alpha command?” Rose taunts. “I don’t even know how to control that yet,” I respond. I am only half-lying. I have not tried to use it since that first night with James and Brady at the luau. “It takes practice,” Rose acknowledges. “And it is easier to use it when you have heightened emotions. We can work on it. The point though, is that you are not even TRYING to use it. And do not pretend that you did not wave off Brady’s security guards when they tried to intervene.” I roll my eyes, which Rose can sense even if she cannot see them. “You must think that I am losing my mind.” “Yes,” Rose confirms. “I keep saying I do not want James and then I act like I do want James.” “Yep.” “And I say that I have forgiven him and then I lash out at him

for something he did in the past.” “Yeah, you did that too.” “I think I was unconsciously looking for reasons to reject him again,” I admit. “I know you were. But he was smart enough to not make it easy for you to do that.”

“For years I have cursed him out in my head as being a man-whore while he was telling everyone else to avoid me because I was a slut, but it turns out he wasn’t one. Meanwhile, I am the one of the two of us who made out with two different males in 24-hour period. Do you... do you think that I really am a slut, Rose?” Rose sighs. “You are not a slut, Lily. You are a 20-year-old female who is confused. You have two really hot male wolves who are competing for our love. One of those wolves has taken care of you and proven himself time and time again, and the other one is your mate. If you were not confused and changing your like you spread your legs or anything. If kissing is all it takes to earn the ‘s’ title in your mind, I worry about our future.” Ah, my wolf Rose. I do not know for sure, but the way she talks sometimes, I cannot help but wonder if she is a secret nymph. Whatever male wolf we end up had better be prepared. We finally make it to James’ room. It is two floors above mine, on the far other side of the resort. He gently places me on the ground and opens the door. True to his word, there are two beds in the room. He walks over to his suitcase, pulls out a t-shirt, and hands it to me. “What is this?”

“I thought you might want something to sleep in.” “You know, I had pajamas back in my room.” “I am not carrying you all the way back there. That is a long walk, and you are heavy.” James rubs his shoulder for emphasis, pretending it is sore. I glare at him, and he laughs.

“I am joking, relax. I wasn’t exactly thinking when we left your room. You do not have to wear my shirt if

you do not want to, but it should be comfortable if you do. The bathroom is right over there.”

“Thank you,” I say as I make my way to the bathroom.

I quickly change and head back into the bedroom. I find James sitting on the edge of one of the beds.

He gestures towards the other one.

“You can have that bed there. There are extra blankets and pillows in the closet over there if

you need them. My mini-fridge has plenty of waters in it if you get thirsty. Room service runs 24 hours if you get hungry. Can you think of anything else you might want or need?"

I shake my head, smile, and walk over to the other bed. Just before I sit down, I decide to walk over to where James is sitting instead. I lean down and give him a quick kiss on the cheek.

"Thank you, James."

He looks at me curiously.

"I mean it. Thank you. Today has been a lot, and I do not know what I am feeling or what the future holds for either of us, but I want you to know that I appreciate that you are trying."

He gives me a huge smile.

"In fact, I may even remove your picture from my dart board," I tease.

"Please don't. I don't want you to forget me yet," he says seriously.

I do not know how to respond to that comment, so I just head back to the other bed and lay down.

After a couple more minutes of small talk, we agree that we both need some sleep. I am definitely tired, but I am honestly more eager to finally talk to Rose about everything that happened. Our conversation on

the way to the room was not long enough.

With my back to James, I open the link to Rose.

"Rose, do you believe that he is really a virgin? I mean, he sounded convincing, and I cannot imagine why he would tell me he has dysfunction problems if it is not true, but... how? Alpha wolves usually need to have sex all the time. It is one of the reasons that I never wanted to be mated to an alpha; I never wanted

to get someone else's hand-me-downs.

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 106

Chapter 0106

“It is the mate bond. He really cannot get it up for anyone else.”

“That does not make sense, Rose. Cheating happens. That is why they teach us about betrayal pains in high school. And the medical school has a whole class on how to treat patients who have suffered betrayal pains. If the mate bond prevented ‘getting it up,’ we would not need any of those lessons.”

“Those are really important lessons for most wolves, Lily, but the Moon Goddess created us a little bit differently. We have a really important destiny, more important than you realize. It is because of our destiny that the Moon Goddess did not want to take the risk that we could be compromised by betrayal pains. So our mate bond is a little stronger than normal, and as long as the mate bond is in place, our

mate is physically unable to cheat.”

“But we rejected the mate bond the same day that we discovered it. How does that explain James not being able to perform before and after?”

“Just like other wolves, the mate bond starts to take effect when both mates get their wolves. If the pair already knows each other, it can linger passively for years. And after a rejection, there will continue to be lingering effects of the bond until one or both of you mark others. James had issues as soon as I came, and he will continue to have a problem playing with others until the bond is completely gone.”

“Does that mean that he could have had sex with Stephanie if he wanted to? You did not come until after

Stephanie died.”

“Yes, he could have slept with her or anyone else if he really wanted to.”

I....”

“Does it work both ways? I mean, could ...

“Sleep

with someone else? Yeah. You can. It does not sound fair at first, but it makes sense. The Moon

Goddess is concerned with protecting us, not as much our mate. Once we mark a mate, that will change

though. She will protect him too.”

“What about the betrayal pains?”

“Neither of you have to really worry about those. You never really had to because of his... issue... but the

rejection will protect him from feeling anything unless you mark each other.”

“Wait... Rose, have you known this the entire time? Is this why you were originally okay with leaving the

pack without rejecting him? And why you said that you would take on the betrayal pains on your own, and

I should not worry about them? Because you knew that we would never actually feel any?”

“Yes.”

“Why did you not tell me?!?!? Don't you think that would have been important information for me to

have?”

“It was not my story to tell. James needed to tell you the truth in his own time.”

“Rose, you are my wolf! How can it not be your story to tell?!?”

“If it had been Luke doing the lying, I would have said something. But it was not; it was James. And if your mate wanted to lie to you and everyone else, I was not about to help him out by telling you the truth. What he said and did was still wrong, and threatening you with betrayal pains was still very cruel. He

deserved the rejection at the end.”

“Wait... does this mean that James threatened to do all those things just to upset me? And that he never

actually intended to carry out the threats?”

“Oh, he meant every word. He would not have been able to carry out the threats, but he did not know that,

and he fully intended to try.”

“Does Luke know about all of this?”

“No. Luke obviously knows that you have a wolf, and he knows that our mate bond is stronger than

normal, but he does not know why. If we want them to know, we will have to tell them.”

I think about that for a few seconds, feeling a little bit tempted, but then I realize why I can't.

“What would I tell him, Rose? I have this special wolf, and as a result, I am in constant danger. Oh, and

because you are mated to me, congratulations your di ck does not work. But, so sorry, I cannot tell your

anything about what the dangers are or what all of my powers are because my wolf will not tell me. That

sounds really helpful and informative.”

“Sorry, Lily, but you know that I would tell you everything if I could. Unfortunately, it is best if you find out

everything in your own time.”

“I am sorry I am sounding so frustrated, Rose. I just do not understand why there have to be so many

secrets.”

“I know you don't, Lily. But please trust me on this.”

tout Rose vo

you lied to me! You told me that you would take on the betrayal pains knowing there would not

be any! And you also told that I might feel discomfort.”

“Oh, that. Well, I did not exactly lie about the discomfort. His member may not work, but his lips still do.

If he wanted to kiss someone else, he probably could. And without a rejection in place, you would feel

that.”

I sighed. I love Rose, but these secrets are driving me crazy.

“I am sorry about that, Lily. I promise there is a reason. I love you, too.”

“ROSE!”

“I know, I know. Stop listening to your thoughts without permission. Get some sleep, Lily. Good night.”

“Good night, Rose.”

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 107

Chapter 0107

(Lily POV)

I groaned as I woke up, finding myself laying on something hard instead of the super soft bed that I fell

asleep on. I wondered whether I walked in my sleep, and if so, what I was laying on now. As I started to

wiggle around, trying in my grogginess to figure out what I was laying on before I opened my eyes, I felt

something hard on my thigh. That is when I realized that I was not laying on someTHING, but rather

someONE.

immediately opened my eyes and sat up. Yes, indeed, I was laying half on top of James. Thankfully all

of our clothes were still in place, although that “something hard’ against my thigh was exactly what you

would think it would be given yesterday’s conversation.

James jerked when I sat up, and then he looked at me in surprise.

“Good morning,” he said hesitantly.

“Um, good morning. Why... why are you in my bed?”

He gave me a half-smile. “You are in mine.”

I looked around and realized that he was right. I quickly stood up. “I am so sorry. I do not know how that

happened.”

“Oh, that was me,” Rose confessed.

“Luke says it was Rose,” James stated at the same time.

Sigh. I told you she was a secret ny mph.

“Sorry, Lily, but I wanted to spend time with Luke. You and James have been sucking up all the time with

your human issues, so we had to talk while you were sleeping.

“Did you have to climb on top of him to talk?”

“Easier that way,” she replied in her vixen-like voice. I rolled my eyes.

“Would you like to get breakfast before you leave?” James asked.

“I don’t know. What time is it?”

James grabbed his phone. “Oh, cr ap. I think we missed breakfast.”

“Why? How late is it?”

“11 am.”

My jaw dropped as I started to panic. “What? How did that happen? I normally have a hard time sleeping, and I never sleep in.”

James looked just as surprised as I felt. “I don’t know. I normally do not sleep in either.”

“What time are you leaving to go back?” he asked.

I felt a small pain in my heart when he referenced me leaving, but I was in a panic, so I ignored it.

“Um, Brady wanted to leave at 10:30.”

“Oh.”

As though Brady was reading my mind, I received a mind-link from him right then.

“Lily. Let’s go.”

I noticed that Brady’s voice was unusually cold, but I assumed it was because I was late. I immediately

mind-linked him back.

“Yes, I am so sorry. I accidentally slept in. I will meet you in the lobby soon.”

I felt Brady cut the link without saying anything else to me.

I looked back at James apologetically. “I have to go. Brady is waiting for me.”

I grabbed my clothes off of the chair and started to head towards the door.

“Lily?”

I turned around.

“How can I reach you in the future?”

I could hear the fear in James' voice as he asked me that question. I knew he was afraid my response would be similar to the one I gave him the night before. I put my clothes down on the dresser and went

over to him.

I hugged James tightly. "Dr. Hyder should always know where I am and how to reach me. Reach out to him, and he will pass along a message."

"Will he? Are you sure? Even with... Brady?"

As James asked me that question, I realized that I actually was not sure. Once upon a time, before the

not tell me about the first time James came looking for me, and that since the rejection, he has been keeping secrets from me about the danger that I am in. Even though I trust Dr. Hyder completely even with the secrets, if Dr. Hyder decided talking to James would not be good for me, I could not be sure he

would pass along a message.

"I... I don't know."

"Can you tell me where you are staying?"

I was surprised that James had not figured out yet that I had been staying at Brady's pack, but I also knew. that it was probably for the best that he not know. I looked at him and grimaced. "I am sorry, James, but

I can't."

James frowned. "Then promise that you will reach out to me. In three months."

your!

"Three months? You mean on your birthday?"

At first he smiled, but then he looked guilty. "You remembered... without having to look it up in a file."

"Yeah... you are the future alpha, after all. It is an important date to know," I teased, trying to make a joke

out of it. I will contact you on your birthday.”

“Promise?”

“Promise.”

James leaned down and kissed me. I returned the kiss, recognizing that there was a possibility that this

could be the last time that I ever kissed him.

“Lily. It is time to go,” Brady mind-linked.

I pulled away from James. “I really have to go.”

He nodded. I grabbed my clothes off of the dresser and hurried back to my room to pack.

We have now been on Brady’s airplane for four hours. Brady has yet to say more than two words to me

since we left the resort.

At first, I was okay with the quiet, because it gave me some time to think about everything that had

happened while we were in Hawaii. However, I realized after a while that Brady was not just being quiet; something was really bothering him.

I wish I could say I figured that out on my own, but Brady decided to make it obvious. Every time I tried to

from some other spot on the plane. If I was lucky, he also glared at me. »

I was not used to Brady treating me this way, and I absolutely hated it. Rose and I agreed that he needed.

to tell us what was going on and what had upset him so much, whether he wanted to or not.

I got up

from where I have been sitting and sat down next to him on the couch..

“Brady-”

As he had before, Brady got up and started to walk away. This time, he was heading towards the front of

the plane.

“Brady!” I say exasperated.

He stopped, turned part way around, and glared at me. I hated that this somehow felt like progress.

“Brady, please. I know something is wrong. Please tell me what it is. If it is something that I did, I am

really sorry.”

Now Brady turned around, giving me a straight-on view of his eyes. He had so much rage in his eyes that

it scared me a little bit. I barely recognized him. He walked slowly back towards me, like a wolf stalking

its prey.

“Did you sleep with him, Lily?” he asked coldly. 1

“What?!?!?”

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 108

Chapter 0108

(Lily POV)

“Did you sleep with him, Lily?” Brady asked me coldly.

“What?!?!?”

“Did. You. Sleep. With. Him. It is a simple question. Yes or no?”

My heart dropped, and I put my hands over my face. I felt naive for not putting two and two together earlier. “That is what this is about?”

Brady continued to glare at me. "You are avoiding the question, Lily. I already know that you kissed him. I also know that he carried you over his shoulder to his room, that you spent the night with him, and that you came out this morning wearing nothing but his t-shirt. Were you so overcome by hormones that you forgot that my men were there watching and reporting everything back to me?"

Brady's voice was filled with rage, but I could also hear an overwhelming sense of hurt. My heart began to ache for him and for the pain this situation was causing everyone.

"Brady...."

"I know he wanted to sleep with you. Hell, half my men want to sleep with you. Or at least the unmated ones do. What I want to know now is how you reacted. Did you go ahead and f&&k him? Or was it just as easy for you to turn James down as it was to turn me down?"

"Brady, look. Please relax. 1

"Answer the d&&n question, Lily. Don't you think I have a right to know?"

I did not know whether to feel embarrassed, guilty, or angry at the way that he was talking to me. Or all of the above. I wished that he would calm down so that we could talk about this. T

"I am waiting Lily. Tell me the truth. You are a horrible liar, so I will know."

I sighed in exacerbation.

"No, Brady, I did not sleep with him."

He studied my face. "No, wait, I should have asked the question differently. You are not getting out of this question on a technicality. I do not care if you slept. Did. You. f&&k. him?"

I sighed again. "No, Brady. I did not have sex with him."

"But you kissed him right?"

"Brady, please stop this. This is crazy. This is not you."

base, even?" he asked bitterly.

Brady did not say anything right away, but I could tell hurt was slowly taking over for the anger. He sat

down, leaned over, and put his face in his hands.

I moved forward and put hand gently on his arm. "Brady, please understand

"Understand what, Lily? Understand that you gave yourself to the very male you promised you would

never go back to? The very male that you rejected after he treated you like sh&t for years?"

"Brady, it is not that simple. It—"

"What Lily? Do you think you can just explain it away and I will understand? I told you that I have fallen in

love with you. I have done everything I can to prove to you that I can be a good mate for you! And I know

you have felt something for me too. But then James comes waltzing in and it is like you forget about

everything and everyone else. How is that supposed to make me feel?"

I felt a tear run down my cheek. "Brady, I am really sorry. But you were right. He is my mate, and it is

hard to let him go, even with our past. That is exactly why you wanted me to come here and see him.

You knew that if I did not go to him, he would try to find me. And you were absolutely right.

But you should also know that nothing really happened between James and I last night. There were two

beds in his room. We kissed, yes, but that is all that we did. He brought me to his hotel room only

because he smelled you in my room and on my bed, and it was driving him and his wolf crazy.”

Brady sat silently for a few minutes. When he looked back up at me, I saw that his eyes were bloodshot

and he had a few tears in his eyes. So much for male alphas not crying: both James and Brady had

seemed as emotional as me the last couple of days.

“Look, Lily. I am really sorry for yelling at you, okay? You did not deserve that. I just... I know how hard it

is to be around someone that you have been mated to, even after a rejection. I am so scared of losing

I

you like I lost Evelyn. Just the thought of losing you, especially to someone like James, kills me.” z

I grabbed Brady’s hand and squeezed. It occurred to me that I was missing critical information. “Why

don’t you finally tell me about Evelyn so that I can understand,” I whispered softly.

Brady squeezed my hand in return. “Okay.”

I took the seat next to Brady and waited for him to begin his story.

(Joey POV)

Me:

“Babe, James just called me.”

Jessica:

“And?”

Me:

“He told me to spend as much time as I want in Hawaii, and to tell Sheila the next time she

asks that he left Hawaii and she can go to hell.”

Jessica:

“What? Really? That is great!”

Me:

“I don’t know. Maybe.”

Jessica:

“What’s wrong?”

Me:

“Aiden is working overtime to keep her distracted, but she is getting restless. She saw this

trip as an opportunity to secure her place as luna. Aiden said she even makes him call her “Luna” as he is

f&&k&ing her. She is going to be livid when she finds out that James isn’t here anymore. She is going to be

desperate and angry when we get back to the pack.”

Jessica:

Me:

“Oh, f&&k. You are right. I should alert the others.”

“Yeah, I think that is a good idea. Who knows what she will do now.”

Jessica:

“Did he give you any clues about how it went with Lily?”

Me:

“It was a little hard to find that out without asking him how it went with Lily.”

Jessica:

“True.”

Jessica:

“Wait. Oh, Joey, you didn’t do that did you?”

Me:

with him.

[ashamed emoji] Not exactly that question, but I did ask him if he was bringing Lily back.

Jessica:

“What did he say?”

Me:

“He asked me how I knew that he was meeting with Lily.”

Jessica:

“Cr ap. What did
you tell him?”

Me:

“That I had to go, because Sheila was throwing a fit at the restaurant.”

Jessica:

“Was she really?”

Me:

“Not right then, but she has thrown fits everywhere we have gone. She is convinced that she has the right to be treated like a princess by everyone.”

Jessica:

[eye roll emoji] “I love you.”

Me:

“Love you too.”

Jessica:

“I will make sure the others know to be prepared.”

With that, I headed to the pool to talk to Aiden and Sheila.

Hopefully my mate can ensure that everyone is ready for when Sheila returns to the pack. I will try to

keep her here as long I can, but I do not know how long she will cooperate. My guess is that she will be on the next flight out of here.

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 109

Chapter 0109

(Lily POV)

Brady let go of my hand and ran his hands through his hair.

“Look, Lily, please remember that I am a different person now. I cannot justify any of the things that happened back then, and I do not want to even try. I was a jerk, and I know it.”

I shook my head. “Brady, you have told me all of this already.”

know. I just wanted to repeat it so that you remember it. I also want to be sure that you know I know

how wrong I was.”

“Brady, relax. I understand that you are not perfect. And what happened must have occurred a long time

ago, from what little I know.”

Brady did not say anything. He just kept running his hands through his hair.

“Brady, are you going to tell me?” I asked gently. I would like to know, but you do not have to tell me

you do not want to.”

“No, I want to tell you. It’s just.....”

it

Brady got up and started pacing. Then he sat down again, only to get up a couple of minutes later and resume pacing. Finally, he sat down, leaned his head back on the seat, and closed his eyes.

“I started dating Evelyn when we were both 15 years old. My dad, not surprisingly, was against it. He said. that I should not have a serious relationship until I met my fated mate, and that I should save myself for her. I ignored his advice. Evelyn was funny, kind, and absolutely gorgeous. I felt drawn to her. And I was

a horny bastard.

We lost our virginity to one another at age 16. Evelyn became my world. We saw each other almost every day, and I fell head over heels completely in love with her. We continued to date all through high

school and after we graduated.

My male friends-especially my alpha ones- would often talk about the girls that they dated and brag

about their sexual exploits. I was the only one who had a serious girlfriend. My father repeatedly tried to

convince me that having a serious girlfriend was a risk. He did not want me to be like my friends and

have a new female every week, but he warned me that having such a serious girlfriend could also lead to

unnecessary complications when I eventually met my mate.

I was stubborn, and I continued to ignore his advice. Nevertheless, the closer that Evelyn and I got to our

20th birthdays, the more we began to seriously think about what we would do and what would happen to

not be so hard on us when we found our mates, but neither of us wanted to do that.

For whatever reason, it never occurred to Evelyn or I that we might be fated to each other. Looking back.

on it, I do not understand why it never occurred to us; all the signs were there. The only thing I can think

of to explain it is that we were young and stupid.

Anyway, we watched as our friends began to turn 20 and meet their mates. The conversations with my

male friends shifted from discussions about their sexual exploits to conversations about how different

sex was with their mates than with other girls that they had fucked. Meanwhile, Evelyn's friends would

regularly talk about how exciting it was to fall in love at first sight, with the power of the mate bond.

Between Evelyn and I, I turned 20 first. I was incredibly excited to find my mate. Even though Evelyn and

I were still together, I would go to parties and events eager to find out who the Moon Goddess had

selected for me. I wondered whether the Moon Goddess would mate me with a blond with big breasts, a

brunette with a tiny waist, a red-head with a perfect butt, or someone with a combination of those

features.

I also fantasized about how much better sex would be with the mate bond versus the sex that I had been

having with Evelyn. That is not to say that sex with Evelyn was bad. To the contrary, I enjoyed it very

much. I just did not have anything to compare it to, because I had never been with anyone else.

Before you say anything, yes I know that the mate bond is about much more than just sex. But I did not

necessarily realize that then. I was an immature, walking mess of hormones, and I could barely go three

minutes without thinking about sex. So when I thought of my future mate, most of my thoughts naturally

were about sex too.

At the same time, the idea of Evelyn having sex with another wolf drove me nuts. I decided that I had to

be the one to find my mate first. That way, it would hopefully bother me less when she found hers. The

closer to Evelyn's birthday we got, the more desperate that I became to find my mate.

Unfortunately, Kalen fought me on the idea of checking out other females. All he wanted to do was hang

out with Evelyn and her wolf. In hindsight, that alone should have been the biggest clue that Evelyn was

my fated mate. But, of course, I did not think of it that way. I just thought that we had spent far too much

time with Evelyn and her wolf the last few years, and that Kalen had gotten attached to them.

The three nights leading up to Evelyn's birthday were the absolute hardest for me. I did not sleep at all. In

retrospect, the lack of sleep probably contributed to the horrible decision that I made. I just kept thinking about the possibility of Evelyn meeting her mate and that other b&tard touching her intimately, in ways

only I had. The idea made me crazy.

Finally, the morning of Evelyn's birthday arrived. I went over to her parents' house. They had prepared a big birthday breakfast for her, and they had invited me to join them. The moment that I walked into

began prancing in the back of my head shouting "mate" over and over again.

Just then, Evelyn came down the stairs. I could tell her wolf was telling her the same thing. Evelyn had a

huge smile on her face and ran down the stairs to greet me.

Unfortunately, instead of feeling happy, I.... I panicked."

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 110

Chapter 0110

(Lily POV)

I waited patiently as Brady paused. At this point in the story, I did not know what to think, and I was afraid

which direction the story might go.

Brady did not hold me in suspense long.

"Evelyn was thrilled

to discover that we were mates," Brady continued, "and a big part of me was happy

too. However, 20-year-old me also panicked. I kept thinking about the fact that being mated to Evelyn.

meant that I would never know what it felt like to have sex with others. I would also never get to

experience the excitement of ‘love at first sight.’”

The more my panic set in, the more I realized that I had to get out of there. I turned around and ran back

to the packhouse. Kalen was screaming at me to go back to our mate, but I just couldn’t bring myself to

do so.

Evelyn was not the type of she-wolf who ran away from her problems. She always confronted them

heads on. And so, to her credit, Evelyn chased after me. But I was faster, so by the time she caught up, I

had already made it back to my room.

Huffing and puffing. Evelyn demanded that I tell her what was wrong. I did not know what to tell her, so I

did not say anything. I just stared out the window.

Evelyn then asked me if I was unhappy about us being mates. I hated the pain that I heard in her voice,

but I did not know what to say. I mean, how do you tell the woman that you have loved for years that you

are happy that you are mated to her, but that you are also disappointed that you were not mated to

someone else? Or that you are relieved that she will never be touched by another male, but that you are

disappointed that you will never get to have sex with another female? (2

As I was trying to figure out how to explain it all, Evelyn put her hand on my arm in a comforting manner. I

felt the sparks for the first time, and they were everything that everyone had ever told me about.

I turned around and my eyes met with Evelyn's. That is when the mate bond really took hold. I felt an

overwhelming desire to kiss her. So I did. One thing led to another, and pretty soon we were in bed

having the absolute best sex that we had ever had."

I could not help but cringe at this part of Brady's story. I could have lived without many of these details.

"In the heat of the act, Kalen desperately wanted to mark Evelyn, but I would not let him. And when

Evelyn asked if her wolf could mark me, I refused.

A short time later, while we were laying naked next to each other on my bed, Evelyn asked me why I refused the marks. I decided to just be honest.

I told Evelyn that I wanted her as my mate, and that I was really happy that she was mine. However, I also admitted that I felt cheated that I had not gotten to play the field or experience what it was like to be with

other females.

Evelyn was hurt, but she heard me out. When I was done explaining, she asked me what I wanted to do.

That is when I came up with what I thought was a great idea.

I told Evelyn that I felt like it was really important that I sow my wild oats and get that horny teenager out of system. I proposed that we reject each other, but only temporarily. I wanted a few months to get the horny teenager out of my system. Once I did, we could get back together, restore our bond, and mark

each other.

Today, I fully recognize just how stupid and selfish that idea was, but at the time, I truly did think it was

brilliant.

Evelyn, not surprisingly, did not agree. She angrily got dressed and asked me if I would be okay if she slept with other guys during our 'break.' I growled and told her that no wolf was allowed to touch what was mine. She looked at me like I had grown five heads which honestly, I probably had- and responded 'fine.'

—

I should have known that 'fine' did not mean 'fine,' but she had handled everything up until that point so

well that I stupidly assumed that 'fine' meant that she agreed with my plan.

I said the words of rejection, and she accepted. We both passed out. That is not that unusual when mates reject each other, but it was yet another thing I had not thought about when I proposed the temporary rejection. She missed her entire birthday because of my stupidity, just like James made you

miss yours. 2,

Three days later, I woke up in a hospital bed with my father glaring daggers at me. It turns out that Evelyn

had woken up first, and she told my parents and hers everything that had happened. My father was more

pi ssed at me than I had ever seen him before in my life.

My father's reaction was everything you might expect. He did not want to be alpha for a second longer

than he had to be. Because I voluntarily rejected my luna, he no longer cared to wait to transfer power

until I had one. He told me that I would have to learn to live with the consequences of my own stupid

mistakes, and that included taking on the responsibility of running the pack by myself.