

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 211

Chapter 0211

(Brady POV)

I woke up the next morning to the sound of my phone ringing. I groaned as I struggled to open my eyes,

not wanting to wake up.

“She smells amazing.” Kalen linked me.

“What? Who?”

“The she-wolf laying next to you. She smells amazing.” Kalen repeated.

Uh-oh.

I quickly sat up in the bed and looked around me. Not only was there a she-wolf laying next to me, but

also both of us were completely naked.

“She is beautiful,” Kalen gushed. “She will make beautiful pups.”

I silently studied the she-wolf. Kalen was right; she was gorgeous. But why was Kalen talking about pups

and not yelling at me for blocking him last night? He never took any interest in any of my one-night

stands in the past.

More importantly, who the f&k was this she-wolf? I rubbed my hands down my face, struggling to

remember.

Then, suddenly, almost like an answer to my question, the memories of last night came flooding back to

Charlotte. The she-wolf's name was Charlotte. She rejected her mate yesterday. We bonded over our broken hearts. She wanted to know if her breasts were big enough. I decided to inspect them for

her. They were perfect. Round, soft, full enough to perfectly fit my hands. She let me taste them. And

then we had the best sex that I have ever had in my entire life, including with Evelyn.

I had a vivid memory of pouring champagne all over some of Charlotte's private regions and licking it all

off. And of her returning the favor.

Whoa.

I

As the memories came back to me, I started to wonder how much of what I was remembering was reality

versus just a dream. It has been years since my last one-night stand. Normally I drink and that is it. And

I have never had sex better than Evelyn. More than that, the picture I had in mind of what Charlotte

looked like was too perfect to be real.

I glanced over at Charlotte again. A blanket was loosely covering her. One look would not be wrong.

remember matches my drunken memory.

I waited for Kalen to scold me for getting such an offensive idea, but he didn't. Instead, I felt him sit up straight in my head, as though he wanted to get a better look too.

I gently grabbed the blanket – thankfully she was not holding on to it- and lifted it.

“Whooooooooaaaaaaa,” Kalen linked me. “She.... She is better than your memory.”

Kalen was right. Holy f&&k.

I dropped the blanket.

Just then, my phone rang again. Sh&t. I forgot that was why I woke up. I hurriedly looked for my boxers and put them on, and then started to look for my phone. Hopefully I could find it before it woke Charlotte.

Unfortunately, it turned out that my phone was buried in a mess of shattered glass, liquor bottles, and clothing. By the time I finally found it, I had missed another two calls and what sounded like a few text

messages.

I took the phone with me into the bathroom, leaving the door ajar just a little bit so that I could watch the

bed and see if Charlotte moved at all.

Looking at my phone, I saw that it was Evelyn that had been trying to reach me. She had called me six

times and sent me five text messages:

Evelyn:

“Where the f&&k are you, Brady? I heard you went to find your wh ore. Call me.”

Evelyn:

“Are you done banging your wh ore yet, Brady? We need to talk.”

Evelyn:

“Your son wants to know where you are. What should I tell him? Should I tell him that not

only is random sex more important than your mate, but

So it is more important than your son?”

Evelyn: “If you want to continue to have a relationship with Sammy, I suggest you put your dick in your pants and call me. Now.”

I found myself getting angry as I read through Evelyn’s text messages. It had been many years since everything happened between us. I suffered for years, but she had happily moved on with a new mate and a new pack, and she now had a new pup on the way.

Who did she think she was to be acting like a jealous angry b&&tch with say over how I lived my life?

It was sort-of funny. Years ago, I would have taken Evelyn’s recent behavior as a positive sign that she was jealous and still loved me. But things change, and everything she has done on this recent visit to Black Moon has made me irritated and angry.

“The fog is starting to clear,” Kalen linked. “For both of us.”

I sighed.

Annoyed, I kept reading through her messages. The fifth message caught my attention. In fact, it caused

my heart to stop.

Evelyn:

Call me.”

F&&k. Sh&t.

“Brady, please. I am sorry for the other messages. It is Sammy. He has been kidnapped.

No. Please no.

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(Brady POV)

My heart pounding, I called Evelyn. She answered the phone on the first ring.

She was crying hysterically, which made it hard to understand her. However, from what I could gather from between her sobbing, Sammy had been kidnapped from his room at some point between Evelyn's

fourth and fifth text messages to me this morning.

Worse, the kidnapers left a note, which Evelyn agreed to text to me. The note said:

"You have 48 hours to bring us the she-wolf. We no longer care if she comes dead or alive. If we do not get the she-wolf, you will never see your son alive again. We will be in touch about the transfer details."

Holy Goddess.

The guilt for leaving Black Moon while my pup was still there hit me hard and fast. Had I been there, he

would have been with me. And if he had been with me, he would not have been kidnapped. I let pride,

emotions, and jealousy cloud my thinking.

And even though it was none of Evelyn's business, I really had been fucking another she-wolf while Sammy

was in trouble. Fuck. (No pun intended.)

I needed to get back to Black Moon and fast.

I quickly hung up with Evelyn after promising to do everything in my power to get our son back. I then called my father. Perhaps for the first time ever, I was relieved when he answered the phone.

"You have heard," my father said calmly.

So much for "hello."

"You already know?"

That Sammy was kidnapped?”

“Yeah”

“Yes. It seems the wolves searching for Lily were not happy when they saw the sky last night.”

My heart stopped. I had been hoping that Evelyn was wrong or that I misunderstood her.

I silently began praying to the Moon Goddess. Please do not let them hurt him. Please. He is just a little pup.

“Do you have any leads on where Sammy is?” I asked after a short pause.

“You need to get home.”

“Yes. I will hang up with you and go to the airport.”

“Good. We need you here to deal with this and everything else. I talked to James and Lily this morning,

and they will be heading here soon as well.”

To my surprise, it did not bother me when my father brought up James and Lily being together. Maybe it was just my fatherly instincts prioritizing my emotions. Th

“Do you have any leads?” I asked again.

“Yes.”

I took a deep breath as I stared at the phone. The father in me was falling apart. Last night’s heartbreak seemed juvenile and stupid in relation to my son being kidnapped and the fear of what might happen to

him.

“Dad... I... I am falling apart here. Do you think that Sammy... is going to be okay?”

“He is with Alpha Brett and your mother in Red River.”

Wait.... what?

I looked at the phone in confusion. Did I just hear him right?

“What? So... he was not kidnapped?”

“He was.”

“I am confused. Please, Dad, no more games. This is my pup. What is going on?”

My father did not say anything.

“Dad, please. Think about how you would feel if you were in my shoes. Just tell me what is going on.”

I heard my father take a huge breath, blow it out, and then tap his fingers on the desk. It was rare, but

when he did those three things in a row, it usually meant that he was fighting the urge to say “I told you

so.”

“Dad, please.”

Another minute passed. But then finally, he explained.

“When you told me about your fight with Evelyn, I had a theory. I had her phone and computer tapped, and I also had her followed. It turns out that I was right.”

“What are you talking about?”

“Evelyn has been working with some of the wolves that have wanted to get their hands on Lily.

hey were

going to pay Evelyn \$200 million to bring Lily to them unmarked. Evelyn, in turn, hired some tracker to find

her.

Evelyn lost it when she found out that you left to go and find Lily yourself. But then obviously last night

happened.

Evelyn did not know what it meant when the sky changed, but the wolves she was working with did. They blame Evelyn for feeding them bad information and leading them on a wild goose chase.

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Now those wolves want Lily dead, but of course killing her has now gotten tremendously harder. In the hopes of getting leverage, they kidnapped Sammy this morning while he was playing in his room and they

left that note.

However, we intercepted the kidnappers before they left the pack with Sammy. Evelyn still believes that Sammy has been kidnapped, and the kidnappers' bosses still believe that Sammy has been kidnapped, but he is fine. We have the kidnappers safely kept in the dungeons in Red River, unable to mind-link. We will keep them there until you return and the werewolf council is functional again."

I ran my hands through my hair as I tried to process what my father had just told me. What the f&&k.

Evelyn was behind all of this? Or at least some of it? How? Why?

"How did.... how did you figure it out?"

"It was all right there in front of you, Son, but you were too blinded to see it. Evelyn knew that the wolves

who attacked the pack were after Lily. She either knew that because someone told her that, or because —

"-she was the one that let them in."

“Correct. The attackers believed that Lily was still at Black Moon when they came. That fact alone ruled

out a lot of suspects; most of the wolves who knew that Lily had been the target had also known that she

was gone.

You were u

to blame James, but James is so disillusioned with his family right now that I knew he

would not be the one leaking information, even after the fact.

Meanwhile, Evelyn practically became a fixture around the packhouse after the failed attack, almost as

though she was seeking out information.”

“But when... when I asked Evelyn if Andrew told her, she looked at me with guilt in her eyes...”

“Because she felt guilty about her own actions, and she was afraid that Andrew would find out what she

had done.”

I am an idiot. An absolute idiot.

“Have you arrested Evelyn yet?”

“No. We have her under careful watch, but I want to make sure we have everyone that she has been working with before we arrest her. I am unwilling to alpha-order a pregnant she-wolf, but I am not above

I sighed.

I did not expect to wake up this way this morning.

Was this the way that James felt when he found out what his family and Lily’s had really been up to?

Feeling like an idiot who had blindly believed in wolves who did not deserve his faith in them?

Just then, I saw Charlotte begin to stir in the bed.

“Okay, Dad. I will be home soon. I’ll see you in a few hours.”

“Bye, Son,”

“Dad?”

“Yes?”

“Thank you.

I heard my father murmur something and then hang up.”

I waited in the bathroom for another couple of minutes, trying to decide what I was going to say to

Charlotte before I left. The worst part of one-night stands has always been the awkward morning-after

conversations. It was always easier when one of you got to sneak out the next morning before the other

awoke. With Charlotte stirring, that probably would not be possible.

“You are taking Charlotte with us,” Kalen linked me.

I practically fell over in shock.

“What?”

“I want her. You are taking her with us.”

“Kalen, I cannot take a she-wolf home that I just met last night.”

“You cannot take her home. but you do not mind f&&ing her?”

“That was different.”

“I don’t care, Brady. I want her. You need to make her come with us.”

“Kalen, what is with you?”

Seriously. I did not understand why Kalen was freaking out like this.

“I want Charlotte.”

Suddenly, it hit me. “Is she... is she our second chance mate?”

Kalen was silent for a minute.

“I do not know. I cannot reach her wolf. But I know that I want her. You are not leaving her behind. I do not

care what you have to do to convince her, but I want her.”

AAAAAAARRRRRRGGGHHHH.

This was going to be an interesting morning-after conversation.

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Chapter 0214

(Lily POV)

James and I were standing next to each other in this foreign-to-us hall, feeling confused, when we heard

a female voice behind us.

“It took you long enough. Come, we do not have much time.”

We turned around and saw a beautiful woman -no, Goddess- standing before us. She was wearing a Grecian-style white dress, and her hair was long and silver. It was immediately obvious who she was.

“Moon Goddess?” I said.

“Yes, my children. Now, come closer so that we can talk. We really must hurry.”

James continued to hold my hand as we followed the Moon Goddess to an area of the hall that had a ceiling made of glass and a large water fountain in the middle. She gave us each a huge hug and

directed us to sit down on chairs in front of the fountain.

The Moon Goddess sat down in a chair in front of us, and then she grabbed one of each of our hands.

“So you chose James after all,” she commented happily.

“Yes,” I smiled.

“I was worried there for a long while, but I am glad that it all worked out. I just knew the two of you had

I I

what it takes.”

“Thank you for gifting Lily to me,” James said politely. “I know I do not deserve her, but-”

“Oh, enough with the self-defeated talk already. You would not be here if you did not deserve her. Each

time you question your worth, you are questioning Lily’s judgment. And I, for one, have no questions

about Lily’s judgment. She has proven herself to me.”

James nodded, not sure what else to say.

The Moon Goddess turned back to me.

“Now Lily, I am sure that you are eager to find out what all the secrecy has been all about.”

“More than ready,” I confirmed.

“Let me back up just a little bit before I explain your specific role. Gods and Goddesses are limited in how much we can intervene in the mortal realm. Every time we try to influence or manipulate things, we

picture becomes chaotic and ruined. Because of this, we must be really careful and thoughtful in the things that we do and in the actions that we take.

There are two strategies that many of us like to use to avoid creating too many problems.

One strategy is to plant seeds many, many years ahead of time in the form of prophecies. Because they must be planted so many years in advance, prophecies create much softer, quieter wrinkles.

Unfortunately, the downside with prophecies is that they must be somewhat vague to be useful and to give us the maximum amount of flexibility.

You see, no one-including go ds and goddesses- can tell the future. We can anticipate things that might happen -just like a mother might anticipate that her child might want to eat candy or try to touch a stovetop-but human free will is a powerful thing. In addition, there are other go ds and goddesses whose actions may impact the future, and there are forces of evil playing out as well.

The second strategy that go ds and goddesses like to use is to have chosen children who can help guide others in our place. But, just like with our prophecies, we cannot always predict which of our children will be best suited for each role. We can hope, and we can try to guide, but we cannot guarantee. So,

ther events or other sometimes a go d or goddess will make certain events in a prophecy contingent on

choices.

I anticipated very long ago that I would need a wolf to fulfill the role that I am giving to you today, and so I planted the seeds for that in the form of a prophecy. Had I given you all the powers and responsibilities without warning and preparing the world, it would have created far too many waves and wrinkles, and it would have thrown the entire life picture out of whack.

At the same, before I gave you all of your powers, I had to be confident that I was choosing the right wolf for the role. That meant watching you and testing you. I could not have done either of those things if you

already knew what your destiny was.”

The Moon Goddess pulled her hands away from us and looked down sadly.

“Lily, I will confess that you were not the original wolf that I chose for this role. I had a lot of high hopes

for the original she-wolf, but she allowed her heart and mind to be corrupted by evil. Even as a child, she

did things that horrified me. I wanted to believe that it was solely the influence of her evil mother, and

that once she received her wolf, she would change, but I was wrong. Stephanie refused to listen to the

insights or guidance offered by her wolf, and after turning 14, she only became more selfish and horrible

than before.”

“S-Stephanie? As in, my sister Stephanie?” I asked in disbelief.

The Moon Goddess sighed. “Yes. Stephanie was the original chosen one.”

“But that is impossible. I was there when Stephanie shifted for the first time. She did not have a special wolf or a symbol on her rump like Lily does,” James protested. He was clearly just as confused and

shocked as me.

“Yes. Let me explain more.”

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Chapter 0215

(Lily POV)

“Let me explain more,” the Moon Goddess said.

Before she could, I interrupted with my own question. I could not help it. The Moon Goddess’ words were re-opening old wounds and making me remember all my old insecurities about living under Stephanie’s shadow.

“Are you... are you saying that I was your second choice? And that Stephanie was your first?”

Feeling my distress, James quickly pulled me off of my chair. He then adjusted our positions so that I was sitting in his lap while he held onto me protectively.

The Moon Goddess smiled at his gesture before she leaned forward, grabbed both of my hands, and looked at me with almost-scary seriousness.

“I was worried that you might think of it that way, Lily. But, no, I am not saying that you were my second choice. I am saying that you were not who I originally expected to put into this position. That even I

sometimes make mistakes.”

“That sounds like the same thing.”

“It is not. I love a

all of my children, and you have always been very special to me. I always intended for

you to have a very special destiny.”

I did not say anything: I just continued to listen intently.

“Each of my mission wolves-and, yes, you are one-receives from me powers and gifts that are necessary to help them achieve a specific task or goal. The mission wolf referenced in the prophecy will receive the most gifts and powers, because her destiny involves the goal that is most important to is a destiny filled with power and hope, but also danger and responsibility.

It

Yes, I admit that my original expectation was that Stephanie would take the position discussed in the prophecy. I expected that she would be the one to get the powers that I am giving to you today, and that

she would be the one to focus on my most important priorities.

And, had any of that happened, your destiny would have been different. Not bad, but different. However, my plans and expectations changed.

Free will can be used for good, and free will can be used for bad. That is why destinies are never fixed or

certain. They can only sometimes be predicted, but they can always be changed.

I already had concerns about Stephanie's worthiness before she turned 14. Because of my concerns, temporarily masked Stephanie's special wolf so that she and others could not see it. It was an extreme thing for me to do, but it gave me time to determine if Stephanie could be redeemed with proper guidance. Unfortunately, six months later, I was essentially forced to make the temporary mask

permanent."

"What happened?" I asked.

"The day that I did it, one of Stephanie's younger classmates –who had not yet turned 14–confessed to Stephanie that she liked James and planned to ask him to go with her to the school's spring dance. Later that day, Stephanie pushed that classmate down three flights of stairs, causing her to break an arm and

two legs."

I gasped. I know that I should not have been surprised, but I truly did not realize that Stephanie had started doing those kinds of things so young.

"The worst part about it was that Stephanie planned the attack," the Moon Goddess continued. "She did not act on spur of the moment jealousy or possessiveness, and no one urged her to do it. She had hours to think about it, she came up with the idea all on her own; and she spent hours blocking out her wolf who was pleading with her not to do it.

I decided right then and there that even if Stephanie could later be redeemed–I could never trust her to be the chosen wolf mentioned in my prophecy. I immediately freed Stephanie's special wolf and replaced her with a wolf who was willing to try to work with Stephanie to make her better.

The whole thing is really sad. To this day, I do not think that Stephanie has ever realized that I replaced her wolf. She has always cared so little for what her wolf says or thinks that she only barely knows her

wolf's name or the sound of her wolf's voice.”

The Moon Goddess sighed.

“Anyhow, I am glad I did what I did. I am glad that plans changed.

Unfortunately, however, masking Stephanie's wolf created a very large wrinkle. And following that up by

replacing Stephanie's wolf permanently in turn created one of the largest waves I have ever seen.

That led to huge ripple consequences.

One of those consequences was that the forces of evil learned about the prophecy and my plans for a special wolf. They became determined to track down my special wolf and either make her theirs or kill

her.”

I gulped. James squeezed me tighter..

The Moon Goddess sat up straight, and looked at me with a look of sincerity in her expression.

“Despite everything else that I told you, and everything else that you have been told, I want you to know that James and Stephanie were never intended to be mates. Never. Not for a second. The two of you were fated to each other from Day One, and Lily you were always supposed to be the West Mountain

Pack's next Luna.

was

The only thing that changed was that you and James now have an additional role as well.

I also want you to know that as much as I regret the choices that Stephanie made and the choices that she continues to make- there has been a silver lining. And that silver lining is you, Lily.

After Stephanie did what she did, I had planned to scrap the prophecy entirely and look for another way to achieve my goal. It was not ideal, but it would not have been the first prophecy to have been scrapped or changed.

But then, in the middle of Stephanie's darkness, you began to shine almost like a beacon of light.

Day after day after day especially when you were still living full-time at West Mountain- you proved. that you had the courage to be everything that I had hoped my chosen wolf would be. From intervening when others were being abused, to volunteering to be tortured, to helping care for the families of the hurt

and fallen, to helping Joey....

The Moon Goddess squeezed my right hand and looked at me sympathetically.

"I know that you have suffered, Lily. So much. No one other than you and I fully appreciate how much

you have been through, and how much you have done to help others. I know that not even Rose knows it

all, because you do not want to talk about it or re-live it. You also do not want to see yourself as a victim.

tiny, and you

I wish I could have helped you more. I want you to know, though, that I was always there and I did help.

you when I could, and I have always been incredibly proud of you. You have earned your destiny,

are the only one suitable for it. Not as a second choice, but as the only choice."

I silently looked back and forth between James and the Moon Goddess, trying to absorb and understand what the Moon Goddess was telling me. James

wiped the tears off of my cheek and kissed me gently. “Now, if you are ready, let us talk about that destiny of yours. You earned destiny.”

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Chapter 0216

(Lily POV)

“Now, if you are ready, let us talk about that destiny of yours. You earned destiny.”

I hesitated. I desperately wanted to know what all the secrets were about, but I still had so many questions about everything that the Moon Goddess just told me. There were pieces that still did not

seem to fit.

At least I knew that James was always supposed to be mine. Somehow, I found that incredibly

comforting.

“May I ask you a few more questions first?” I asked.

The Moon Goddess shook her head. “I am really sorry, my love. I had hoped that we would have longer to

talk, but the longer this conversation goes on, the bigger of a wrinkle it creates. And thanks to the two of

you and your little lovefest this week, I have already had to intervene and wrinkle things a bit too much

already....”

The Moon Goddess paused and gave us both a mischievous smile.

When I realized what the Moon Goddess was referring to, I began blushing. Out of the corner of my eye,

could see that James had a hint of red on his cheeks as well.

“Oh, do not be embarrassed,” the Moon Goddess said teasingly. “Your reasons for waiting to mark each other were sweet, and your little lovefest represented young love at its finest. In fact, it reminded me about why I thought the two of you would be a perfect pair. And you deserved to take some time together. I am glad that you did.

It just also meant that, in order to keep you both safe, I had to ‘help’ Charlotte transpose a few numbers and ‘help’ distract the wolves at the West Mountain Pack who were trying to figure out where James went.”

A folded piece of paper then magically appeared in the Moon Goddess’ hand, and she handed it to me. This is the prophecy. You can take this with you and read it.”

I took the paper from the Moon Goddess and showed it to James. He glanced at the paper and then turned back to the Moon Goddess.

“I have read the prophecy before Moon Goddess, and it has some information, but it does not clarify what Lily’s intended destiny is,” James commented.

“No, it does not. That is why we are here. I did not want to put that part in the prophecy.”

“Okay...”

“I had planned to give you a grand speech about it, but we do not have that much time, so let me see if

can condense it.

Basically, the world has been slowly filling up with more and more wolves who think like Stephanie,

Sheila, and Margie. They are unfortunately not unique in their thinking or their behavior. And even outside the werewolf community, enemies have started to realize that the mate bond is both a strength and a

weakness.

The increasing desire by enemies Inside and outside our communities to use the mate bond as some sort of sick tool for torture, revenge, and manipulation

hurts me to my core. I am also concerned about the growing culture amongst youth that the mate bond is not important and can be ignored. It is similar to the

growing human ambivalence towards marriage.

The mate bond is about love and loyalty. It is one of the most important attributes of being a werewolf,

and protecting it is my number one goal of current times.

“Meaning I said hesitantly.

“Meaning that your destiny, Lily, is to protect the mate bond for this and future generations. I want you to

help me remove those from power who threaten it, or who are threatened by it. I also want you to help me

punish those who seek to manipulate it for evil. And I want you and James to be an example for others of

what the mate bond can and should be.”

I thought for a second.

“What would have happened had I not chosen to be with James?” I asked.

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“Thankfully, we do not need to worry about that,” the Moon Goddess answered with a smile. “Although I can say you may have had the same destiny, but perhaps it would have been framed a little bit differently.”

The Moon Goddess stood. We did as well.

“You need to go home now and take care of your pack and the council. Once those are taken care of, you will need to begin to work on the other packs in the United States and throughout the world. Your wolves will be able to guide

you. I will see you again in the future. In the meantime, know that I am only a prayer

away.”

The Moon Goddess gave each of us another hug, and then paused.

“Lily, could you do me another favor please. When you see Evelyn, I would like you to give her a message

for me.

After giving me the message, the Moon Goddess waved her hand in the air. A puff of silver smoke exploded, and then suddenly James and I were back in bed in my apartment.

But for the golden piece of paper in my hand, I could have easily believed the whole interaction with the

Moon Goddess was a dream.

James kissed my forehead as I opened the paper again and began reading.

(The Prophecy)

(As given to a seer 300 years ago)

In 250-300 years, a special Mission Wolf will be born. When she comes of age, this wolf will have both the

coloring of a Mission Wolf and a crescent moon symbol on her rump. This symbol will indicate that this

wolf is the most special of all my wolves, and that her mission will be the most near and dear to my heart.

Her early life will likely be difficult but!

will persevere. Her powers will be fully realized when she marks her chosen mate. No one should interfere with her ability to choose her mate; those that do will be

punished.

If necessary to protect the destined wolf, the wolf counterpart may give the human half limited powers prior to marking her mate.

Care should be taken to limit the she-wolf's knowledge of her destiny. Her human side is still subject to free will. If and only if the human half proves herself to be worthy, she will become the most powerful she-

throughout her lifetime. This peace will ensure that she is able to fulfill the mission that I have assigned to her, although that mission itself may include dangers.

Upon marking, her mate will receive most of the same powers that she has.

If the she-wolf and her human side are compatible -and if the she-wolf uses her free will for good-she will also become the leader of the werewolf council. She will have authority, vested by me, to remove and replace members of the council who have strayed off course. She will also have the authority to free wolves who are trapped with human counterparts who refuse to follow basic werewolf laws and who surround themselves with evil. These are the only powers that her mate will not receive; these powers I reserve solely to the destined one. In addition, these powers may not be given to the destined wolf until

her mate has been marked and approved by me.

If I am satisfied with the mate chosen by my destined wolf, this will be symbolized by a full pink moon and clouds shaped like crescent moons. These will appear on the night of the marking.

If I am not satisfied, only those powers the wolf half has deemed necessary to give the human to protect her prior to marking will be transferred to her mate. All other powers will be forfeited. This will be symbolized by a pink sky and moonless night."

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Chapter 0218

(Lily POV)

"Rise and shine, beautiful," James said as he came into the bedroom and opened the blinds, flooding the.

room with sunshine.

groaned and put my pillow over my face. “Ten more minutes.”

James gently pulled the pillow away from me, earning him a low growl.

Now, let us back up for a second. Normally I am a morning person. I do not even bother to set an alarm clock half the time, because I do not need one. However, yesterday was not exactly a normal day. I quit my job at the girls’ home, fought with Brady, fully marked and mated with James, and met the Moon Goddess. Then, once we “got back,” James and I spent half the night talking through everything that we had learned and everything that we wanted to do.

Meaning, I had barely slept and I was physically and emotionally exhausted. I could not understand why James did not feel the same way. Instead, he responded to my growl by laughing at me.

“Come on, sweetheart. Our flight leaves in three and a half hours, and we still have to get you packed.”

I ignored him, choosing to cover my face with my blanket instead.

“Darling...

I groaned again. “How are you so happy this morning? You got less sleep than I did last night.

James sat down on the bed next to me. “Well, let me see... I woke up next to the most beautiful she-wolf in the world, who happens to be finally wearing my mark, and soon I get to take her home. Not only that, but together she and I will be able to kick some a&& and start righting some wrongs that have been allowed to go on for far too long. I think I have every reason in the world to be happy this morning, don’t

you think?”

I sighed as I realized that I was not going to win this battle; his sweet words were my undoing. I could not

be irritated with him when he said things like that. I stretched, sat up, and looked at him. I then reached

my hand out and rubbed his cheek.

“Why are you looking at me like that?” James asked me curiously.

“I am just taking it all in. Taking YOU all in. It has been a very long time since I have seen you look this

happy and relaxed. It reminds me a little bit of when we were younger.”

I

“Well, I hope my happy face is just as s**y as my grumpy face,” James teased, “because I have a feeling

I smiled. “All of your faces are s**y,” I responded honestly.

“Good answer. Now get up.”

I moaned yes, again- but I allowed him to pull me to my feet. After one very...um, “engaging”... shower, James and I packed up the apartment and prepared to leave. Thankfully, my apartment came mostly furnished, so I did not have to pack much more than my clothes and personal effects.

Soon, we were ready to go.

For a few different reasons, James and I had agreed to start by going back to Black Moon. Now that James and I had marked each other, being there was far less dangerous for me. In addition, Dr. Hyder had been working around the clock to improve security, and with our new powers- James and I could

help him identify the remaining weak links.

After the recent fight with Brady, we knew that being there could lead to some additional awkwardness.

However, all things considered, it was still the best option. We needed to be where Dr. Hyder was -he

had become not just my mentor, but James’ as well; we needed to get to the bottom of the remaining (

current) threats against me; and we needed to relay the Moon Goddess’ message to Evelyn.

Moreover, being at Black Moon would give us a little time to regroup with our allies and test out and learn

our new powers. This was really important to do before we started the showdowns with our parents,

Stephanie, Sheila, and the others at West Mountain.

Anyhow...

Once we had everything packed, James and I did a final check through the apartment to make sure that we had not missed anything. As I grabbed my phone off the counter, I realized that I had not heard from Charlotte since yesterday morning. She typically texted me at least a few times a day. I decided to send her a quick text.

Me: "Hey, Char. Just checking in. James and I are going to be heading out soon; not sure when we will be back. Are you doing okay? I did not hear from you at all yesterday."

No sooner had I hit "send" than my phone began to ring. I showed the phone to James so that he could see the caller ID, and then I answered it.

"Charlotte?"

"Hey... um.... I have a lot to tell you..."

Charlotte was speaking in a hushed whisper, and I also heard water running in the background.

"Why are you whispering?"

"Because I am in the bathroom."

"And?"

"And it is not my bathroom."

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 219

“You stayed over at Derek’s?” I asked, feeling surprised.

“No... um... we rejected each other yesterday.”

“What? Oh... Are you ok? Where are you?!?!”

“... I sort of... met someone else.”

Oh, Goddess.

“Charlotte, please tell me that you did not have another one-night stand.”

She did not say anything.

Although I had never had a one-night stand, I was not offended by the idea of them. It just made my heart hurt for Charlotte, because one-night stands had been the entirety of her sexual experience.

“Char...”

“What?”

“Did you have another one-night stand?”

“You told me not to tell you.”

I rolled my eyes. “Goddess, Charlotte. Well, why are you calling me and not getting out of there?”

“My one-night stand was with a wolf. A really hot wolf. It was my first time with a werewolf, Lily, and it

was amazing. Or at least what I remember was amazing. We were both super drunk and broken hearted.

and it escalated.”

“Fast forward to the part where you are still there and are having to call me from the bathroom,” I urged

her, hoping to avoid the details.

“Well, I thought one of us was going to sneak out this morning, but when I woke up, he was awake and

still here. And not only that, he told me that he and his wolf really like me and they want me to go back to

his pack with him.”

“What?!?!?”

“Yes. And, here is the thing. I know it is crazy, but I want to say yes.”

“Charlotte....”

“I know, I know. And normally, I would get my wolf’s advice before I did something quite this crazy, but she is sort-of missing in action because of the rejection, so I cannot ask her opinion, so.... I wanted to ask

you for yours.”

“No, Charlotte. The answer is “no.” You cannot reject your mate and then immediately move to some random pack with some strange wolf you slept with while drunk.”

I looked at James-who could hear both sides of the conversation- and the look on his face conveyed

everything that I was thinking.

Goddess, what had Charlotte gotten herself into?

“But Lily... I really like him. And his wolf likes me. That has to mean something, right?”

“What would your parents say, Charlotte? And on top of that, what do you even know about him?”

Goddess, you are talking about moving with a guy that you just met 12 hours ago.”

“10”

“Charlotte, that is not making it better!”

“I know, I know. But it is not uncommon for wolves to move this fast when they meet their mates, so...”

“Is he your second chance mate?”

“I have no idea. My wolf is missing right now. But if his wolf likes me, that has to mean something, right?”

“Char, it could mean 100 different things...”

“I know. You are right. But... my gut says that I should go with him. And even if it does not work out

between us, you know that I have always wanted to know what it is like to live in a pack.”

“So come with us.”

James gave me a “are you serious” look.

“No, you two are in your honeymoon period. I do not want to impose on you.”

“You would not be imposing, Charlotte. And going with us would be a whole lot better than changing your

entire life for someone that you just met. And then maybe you can get to know this wolf long-distance

and then decide from there what you want to do.”

Just then, I heard a knock on her door followed by a male voice. “Charlotte? Are you ok?”

The voice sounded strangely familiar, but it was muffled by the door, running water, and phone connection so I could not be sure.

“I have to go,” Charlotte said in a rush.

“What are you going to do, Charlotte?” I asked, even though I already knew the answer.

“I am going to go with him.”

Of course, she was.

“At least tell me his name and pack.”

“Charlotte?” the male voice said again.

“I will ask him for it and text it to you later,” she said before hanging up.

I looked at my phone in complete shock, and then put my head against the wall.

“I cannot believe her,” I told James.

James gave me a half smile. “Love, she is a big girl. She can take care of yourself. Who knows, maybe the

wolf really is her second-chance mate.”

“Maybe,” I said, hoping he was right but not sure if I believed it.

“Come on, babe... we need to go before we miss the flight,” he insisted.

I turned and raised my eyebrows at him.

“What?”

“So far this morning, you have called me beautiful, sweetheart, darling, love, and babe.....

James gave me an embarrassed smile. “I am trying to find a pet name for you.”

“And?”

“I am still trying to find the right one.”

I laughed as I gave him a quick kiss and grabbed my purse.

As we walked out, I took a final look around. I really had loved Ravenswood, and it felt bittersweet saying

good-bye to this chapter of my life. But it was time.

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 220

Chapter 0220

(Brady POV)

To my surprise, after I asked Charlotte to go back to my pack with me, she did not say anything. Instead, she wrapped herself in a sheet, grabbed her phone, and raced to the bathroom.

At first, I was fairly certain that she was calling someone to have me committed. Which, to be honest,

may

I

have been a very reasonable reaction.

However, instead of calling someone to have me committed, she called a friend for advice. And that

gave Kalen and I both some hope.

Now, I admit that I should probably feel guilty for listening to her conversation. Or rather, for listening to Charlotte's end of the conversation. But outside of leaving the hotel room which I was not willing to do

there really was not a good way for me to avoid hearing it.

Whispers and running water might be enough to shield a phone conversation from most wolves, but I am both a special wolf and an alpha. Although I could not hear what Charlotte's friend was saying, I could

definitely hear most of what Charlotte said. And I could do so without even trying.

I should also confess that hearing Charlotte's conversation did something for my ego. Specifically, when

Charlotte told her friend that I was hot and that the sex had been amazing, it immediately filled me with

pride. In fact, I half-wondered if my other one-night stands in the past had said similar things about me to

their friends.

“No, you arrogant jerk,” Kalen chided me.

He was about to say something else -which I am sure would have been a few horribly offensive

comments about my typical sexual skills- but thankfully he was cut off when Charlotte said that she

wanted to come with us.

Now it was his turn to gloat.

Unfortunately, that gloating was short lived. We next heard Charlotte say something about not wanting to interfere with her friend’s honeymoon period, and we realized that her friend must be trying to talk her out

of saying yes.

That is when I knocked on the door; I needed to keep Charlotte focused on her own gut reaction to the

situation and not her friend’s.

I know it was lame. But at that point, I had become just as invested in the idea of bringing Charlotte home with us as Kalen. I did not know if it was male ego, fear of rejection, my own gut instincts, or my own very

her on that plane.

Thankfully, a couple of minutes later, Charlotte came out of the bathroom with a smile. She quickly confirmed that she would be willing to come.

Forty-five minutes later -after a very fast stop by Charlotte’s parents’ house to pack a bag and leave a

note we arrived at the airport.

As we pulled up, Charlotte pointed out a “really adorable couple” that was kissing while waiting in line at the outside security checkpoint. After they took a break from kissing, the male must have said something funny to the female, because even from a distance you could see the female laugh. They then continued to stand face to face, wrapped in each other’s arms as they gave each other loving looks.

Sad to say, but what Charlotte considered “really adorable” came across to me as two people who desperately needed a room. The public display of attention seemed unnecessary. Of course, that could have partly been my own broken heart talking. Having met Charlotte, my heart hurt a lot less than it did

the day before, but I was not 100% yet.

In any event, the taxi finally pulled over and I helped the driver pull Charlotte’s and my bags out of the trunk. As I did so, I heard Charlotte squeal and run over to the couple that we had seen making out. I

looked up to see that the couple had finally broken apart, allowing their faces to be seen.

And that is when I realized who the “adorable couple” was.

Seriously? Did the Moon Goddess hate me?

The “adorable couple” that had been making out was James and Lily. And apparently Charlotte already

knew them.

(Lily POV)

I could hardly believe it when I heard Charlotte squeal and saw her running up to me at the airport.

“Lily!” she exclaimed happily. “What are you doing here?”

“I told you that James and I are heading out today. I take it that you and your mystery wolf are flying out too, as opposed to driving?”

Charlotte smiled. “Yes. And now instead of texting you his name, I can introduce you to him.”

Charlotte pointed to a taxi around 500 feet away, which is where a tall red-headed wolf was standing.

Brady.

James started laughing next to me. I glared at him.

“What? You have to admit, this is just priceless.”

Charlotte looked at James and I in confusion. “What is going on? Do you... do you know Brady?”

I pinched the top of my nose. “Yes. Alpha Brady of the Black Moon Pack.”

“He’s an alpha?”

Oh my Goddess.

“Yes, Charlotte.”

“Oh.”

Brady slowly and hesitantly came walking over. As James and I greeted him with all the timid awkwardness that you might expect after our fight yesterday- Charlotte studied all of our faces. I could almost literally start to see puzzle pieces putting themselves together in her head.