

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 223

Chapter 0223

(Lily POV)

“Charlotte, what are you doing?” I asked.

We were standing in the middle of the flight lounge while we waited for the flight crew to get the plane

ready for us, and she had just ordered a beer from the bartender.

“What are you talking about?” she asked me innocently.

“You hate beer.”

“So does Brady.”

“Do you really think that ordering a beer is going to piss him off?”

“No. But it will send a message.”

“And what message is that?”

“That I am mad at him.”

I sighed.

“Charlotte, I do not think ordering a beer is going to send that message. But even if it is, if

Brady after knowing him for less than a day, why are you going to his pack with him?”

“Because I still really like him. And my gut says that I should.”

are mad at

I reached up and checked her forehead for a fever. When I found none, I turned her around and lifted her

hair, checking for any sign that she was wearing a mask. 1

“What are you doing?” she asked.

“I am just wondering what happened to my friend. You are not running a fever and you do not appear to

be wearing a mask. So my next question is whether you are under some sort of spell.

Charlotte gave me an annoyed look. “There is nothing wrong with me, Lily.”

I raised my eyebrows at her.

“What???”

“You are one of the most confident she-wolves that I have ever met. And yet it has been less than a week

I

since you offered to get breast implants to make Derek happy, and now all of this

with Brady. Where is my

“Oh, those were just doubt-snaps.”

“Doubt-snaps?”

“Yeah, you know. Doubt-snaps.”

“What is a ‘doubt-snap’?”

“Pretty sure it is in the medical dictionary, little miss I-want-to-be-a-doctor.”

“Pretty sure it is not, Charlotte. Now what are they?”

“Brief moments of temporary insanity characterized by extreme self-doubt and insecurities. Usually brought on by hormones or the mate bond. Doubt-snaps come on fast and go away just as fast, leading

the sufferer to return to their normal sassy and confident self. Can happen to humans and she-wolves

alike.”

“Spoken like a true doctor’s daughter,” I laughed. “Now say it again in plain language.”

“Sometimes when I am around males-especially hot males, and apparently also around my mate- I get

a little caught up in the moment. My insecurities come out and I am willing to do almost anything to keep

the attention on me, But then, after I have a chance to think about things, I snap out of it. That is what

happened with Derek. Offering to get breast implants was not my finest moment, nor was chasing him

around, but I snapped out of it and rejected his a&& once I realized that he was crazy and obsessed with

you.

Then I met Brady and we got drunk together. Somehow, despite the fact that we were drunk, I feel like we really bonded. I feel like we get each other. And so yeah, we slept together last night and then I agreed on

a whim to go to his pack with him.

And

then I was super hurt and insecure when I found out that you were the one that he told me he loved. Especially right on the heels of Derek.

But more than being hurt, I was legit pissed that he wanted to try to break up the mate bond between you and James. I may not have known you very long- and I apparently do not know the full complicated story of you and James- but it is pretty d&&n obvious that you two belong together.

So, bottom line: I had a few doubt-snaps with Brady too. But they passed really fast. I believe you when you say that Brady only thought he loved you. And I know that you love James.

So now I am just angry. Not enough to change my mind about going, but enough that if Brady wants to get back into my pants, he is going to have to find a way to prove himself to me. Until then, I am going to have a little fun at his expense.”

I shook my head, not sure what to say. I did not know anyone who thought quite like Charlotte. Whoever she ended up with was going to have their hands full.

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Come to think of it, perhaps Brady really was the right one for her. Somehow, knowing both of them, the thought of them together almost made sense.

Just then, Charlotte took a sip of her beer and immediately spit it out.

“Goddess, I hate beer. That was a bad idea. Come on, Lily. We need to find some pizza instead.”

(James POV)

We made it back to Black Moon without anyone dying.

You may be wondering how the flight went. I encourage you to re-read my last sentence: We made it back to Black Moon without anyone dying. That is about the best thing I can say about that experience.

Instead of applying for membership in the mile-high club with me, Lily spent most of the flight either asleep or sitting next to Charlotte at the front of the plane. That left me to sit in the middle of the plane with Brady.

We were adults, and so sitting within shouting distance of each other on the same plane should have

been fine. Except, of course, it was not.

Instead of listening to music, watching a movie, reading a book, playing on his phone, or doing something -anything- to kill the time, Brady decided to make a show of things. He alternated between staring at

Lily and Charlotte, and glaring at me.

At one point, tired of dealing with the staring and the glaring, I decided to be the bigger male and try to

break the ice. Specifically, I tried asking Brady a series of neutral questions about the weather, sports,

traveling, and even his pack. Each and every question was met with a frosty, one-word answer. That is,

until Brady exploded.

“Cut the cr ap, James.”

“Just trying to be friendly.”

“I am not your friend.”

“Clearly.”

“Can’t you just be satisfied that you won? Why do you have to sit here and gloat?”

“I did not win, Brady. Lily is my mate. Not some toy to be won or lost. And contrary to whatever screw is

stare wistfully at Lily.”

“I have not been staring at Lily.”

“No? You think my eyes are broken?”

“Whatever. I am not talking about this with you.”

“Fine. Don’t. But you should probably talk about it with someone before that dick of yours ruins your next

relationship.”

Brady stood up and growled. That escalated quickly. “What are you suggesting, James?”

“That you have problems, Brady. And you need to deal with them.”

Brady looked like he was ready to throw a punch at me. I stayed seated, not feeling afraid in the slightest.

“You think I have problems? Me? Really?”

“Yes, asshole, I do. I assume you care about Charlotte. Otherwise, your wolf would not have insisted she go back to the pack with you. But you are going to mess things up with her if you do not calm yourself the fuck down and get the stick out of your ass that has been up there for the past eight years and especially

the last few months. You have been so focused on what you do not have that you cannot even see what

is right in front of you.”

Brady took a step closer to me. He was moments from launching himself at me.

“You get a fucking mark on your neck and you think you know everything?” he asked bitterly.

Before I could answer, Lily and Charlotte stood up and starting walking towards the back of the plane.

They had obviously heard our arguing.

“James, Brady, is everything okay?” Lily asked.

“Yes,” I replied.

“No,” Brady growled at the exact same time.

Lily looked back and forth between us, obviously feeling concerned.

“Your asshole mate decided to give me dating advice,” Brady told her.

Telling you to keep your dick in your pants and deal with your issues is not dating advice, Brady, it is life advice,” I responded angrily.

Brady lunged for me, but I moved out of the way, causing him to stumble over a couple of the seats.

“You are one to talk, James. If you had kept your di ck in your pants-maybe even kept it out of Lily’s sister -I may never have had a chance with Lily to begin with.”

Ok, that was a step too far. Game on, a&&hole. This time I lunged for Brady.

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(James POV)

Deciding that I was done with Brady’s bullsh&t, I lunged for him. It was not the fact that he accused me

of sleeping with Stephanie that bothered me. It was the fact that Brady was continuing to mock our

relationship, coupled with the fact that he continued to want to remind Lily about our painful past.

Whether his claims were true did not matter; it was his intent that bothered me.

“STOP IT! BOTH OF YOU!” Lily yelled just before I reached Brady.

I do not know if Lily meant to do so, but she used her alpha command -the same one that she had used

in Hawaii. I felt the weight of it even though it no longer worked on me. The command caught my

attention and brought me back to reality. Instead of giving Brady the punch he deserved, I reached out

and wrapped my arms around my mate.

“I am sorry, my love. He just went a step too far.”

Lily hugged me back. To my relief, she was not angry with me. She was, however, glaring angrily at Brady.

“What is with you, Brady? I do not recognize this version of you,” she said to him.

Brady did not say anything.

“Did you really sleep with Lily’s sister?” Charlotte asked me, trying to make sense of everything she had

heard. “Is that the big, complicated secret between you two?”

“NO!!!” Lily and I exclaimed at the same time.

“Brady does not know what he is talking about,” I added. “Lily is the only female that I have ever been

with sexually.”

Charlotte was taken aback. “Really?”

“Yes.”

“Wow. Wow! That is so sweet! Sq then.... what are the two of you fighting about? Charlotte asked.

I decided to wait for Brady to say something. However, when he continued to stay silent, I realized he was still under the alpha command.

“Lily, you need to release your command so that Brady can respond.”

“Oh. Sorry, Brady, you can talk.”

Charlotte turned to Lily in shock. “Wait, you are not an alpha. How do you have an alpha command?”

“It is a long story,” Lily responded.

“It is a long flight. Tell me.”

“Let’s get the guys settled first, okay?”

Charlotte nodded reluctantly and then looked back at Brady.

“So what were you two fighting about?” she asked again.

“Just debating which one of us was the biggest di ck,” Brady said bitterly, 15

“Not quite, A&&hole,” I retorted.

“What? You think anyone on this airplane actually believes that little ‘virgin’ story you just tried to tell?”

No one said anything.

Brady looked at Lily and then scowled. “Wait, Lily, you actually believe that?!?! You ACTUALLY, TRULY believe that you were his first??? Is that why you picked him over me??? The guy had she-wolves sleeping in his room on a rotation for years. And he threatened you with betrayal pains as punishment for killing

your sister. Your sister that he thought he was mated to.”

“Wait, what?” Charlotte said in surprise.

Lily looked at Charlotte. “I promise, Charlotte, I will tell you the whole story in a few minutes, okay?”

Charlotte again nodded, but I could tell she was getting frustrated.

“I am sure it is hard for you to understand, Brady, given your own history, but yes. Lily was my first, my

only, and she will be my last. Lily and I have talked about everything that happened. I am not proud of my

mistakes, but Lily has forgiven me. And unlike you, when Lily was willing to give me that second chance, I

took it. I did not need to sow my wild oats first. You are the one who rejected the so-called love of your

life not once but twice.”

“What are you talking about? I made ONE mistake. ONE. I was never given a second chance with

Evelyn. If I had-”

Brady paused, thankfully (I think) realizing that Charlotte was standing right there and his next words

might hurt her feelings.

“What I mean is, I made a mistake. But I did not reject Evelyn twice. I only broke up with her once.”

I looked at him skeptically. “No, you broke up with her a year before you discovered that you were mates.

decided to mate the two of you. At that point, Evelyn wanted to leave Andrew and be with you. That is when Sammy was conceived. But then you decided to reject her for the second time. It was only eight months later that you came to your senses.”

Brady paled.

“Are you sure about your timeline, James?” he asked me softly.

“Yes. Andrew and I were talking regularly back then. I remember how upset he was to find out that your and Evelyn were mated, as opposed to him and Evelyn. I also remember how relieved he was when she came back to him. And I remember him talking about the DNA test they did to confirm the pup was yours

and not his.”

Brady sank down in one of the seats and ran his hands through his hair. “I broke up with Evelyn only once, on the day of her 20th birthday,” he said quietly. “We had been together in a committed relationship up until that point. I was told she did not meet Andrew until months later.”

Charlotte looked at Brady and I in disbelief. “You mean... Evelyn was cheating on Brady with Andrew for a

year before they were mated?”

“I guess so,” Brady said in shock.

“Who was Andrew’s first mate?” Charlotte asked.

“I don’t know,” I responded. “I do not think Andrew knows. Andrew and Evelyn are chosen mates.”

“WHAT?!?!?!?!?”

“You mean you really did not know any of this, Brady?”

“No. I was told they were second chance mates.”

My heart sank. A part of me still hated Brady, but now

I felt incredibly bad for him. The look on his face.

reminded me of how I felt when I first discovered that half my life had been a lie.

To her credit, Charlotte sat down next to Brady and began rubbing his back. He seemed comforted by her

embrace.

Watching them, I linked Lily. “I hope they are second chance mates,” I told her.

“I think it is pretty certain that they are,” she linked back. “They just don’t know it yet.”

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Chapter 0226

(Lily POV)

It has been five days since we returned to Black Moon. James and I are now preparing to head back to West Mountain Pack so that we can hopefully put an end to the pain and suffering that has been allowed to exist there for way too long.

As we make the final preparations, I cannot help but think back on everything that has happened since we returned to Black Moon. As you might expect, our return was just as eventful as the flight here, if not more so.. especially for Brady and Charlotte.

My heart originally broke for Brady when he realized that Evelyn -the she-wolf that he had loved and worshipped- had cheated on him. However, I found myself slowly and increasingly coming to the conclusion that Brady's discovery about Evelyn was a strangely positive development.

Brady had spent many years of his life living in a never-ending cycle of regret and longing. Realizing that Evelyn was not the she-wolf that he thought she was could be an important step towards him finally

moving on and letting go.

And, perhaps that realization could also help him open himself up to other possibilities and other relationships. Instead of trying to fill the Evelyn-shaped hole his self-loathing and regret had stubbornly

created in his heart, perhaps he could learn to appreciate other things in his life and other types of

relationships.

Perhaps it could also open him up to Charlotte.

I do not know why I never thought about Brady and Charlotte being a match before. There is something

so incredibly perfect about the two of them. Just the little I have seen of the two of them since we got

back to Black Moon has been enough to prove how well they fit together. Charlotte challenges Brady and

keeps him on his toes. Meanwhile, Brady somehow manages to tone down Charlotte's self-absorbed

nature, and he also seems to bring out the part of her that wants to love someone just as much as she

wants to be loved.

I really do hope that, when Charlotte's wolf wakes back up, they will confirm that they are second chance. mates. James hopes for that too, not only because he sees the same things that I am seeing, but also because Brady continues to drive him crazy at almost every turn. Although Brady finally seems to be

growing up and moving past his feelings for me, it is not fast enough for James.

Speaking of Brady driving James crazy....

*** FLASHBACK: FIVE DAYS AGO ***

Dr. Hyder was waiting for us in the alpha office when we arrived back at Black Moon. Seeing him, I immediately ran up to him and gave him a hug. Dr. Hyder was not a hugger, but it felt right in the moment, and Dr. Hyder immediately hugged me back.

After a couple of minutes, Dr. Hyder let go of me so that he could look at the mark on my neck. He

smiled a big, toothy smile unlike anything I had ever seen on him, and unlike anything I thought he was

—

capable of doing- and then he reached out to shake James' hand.

“Congratulations, Son.”

James returned the smile as he wrapped his arm around my shoulders and kissed my temple. “Thank

you, Dr. Hyder. For everything.”

“We have a lot to work on before you head back to West Mountain. Are you both ready?” Dr. Hyder asked.

“We are.” I said confidently.

Dr. Hyder then turned to Brady, who was standing at the entrance to the office.

“Glad to see you back as well, Son. Who is the lovely she-wolf next to you?”

Charlotte did not wait to be introduced. She happily walked up to Dr. Hyder and held out her hand.

“Dr. Hyder, I have heard a lot about you. I am Charlotte.”

I was not sure how Dr. Hyder would respond to Charlotte. Despite how he greeted James and I, he was

anything but a warm and fuzzy kind of guy. Thankfully, to my relief, he took Charlotte’s hand and smiled.

He then looked at the three of us with question marks in his eyes.

“Charlotte is a friend of mine from Ravenswood,” I explained.

“And she came back with you because?”

“Brady and I met at a bar last night. We had what we both thought was a one-night stand, but it turns out his wolf really likes me, so he insisted I come back with him to your pack.”

I covered my mouth in shock. James covered his too, but he did so in order to stifle a laugh. And Brady... Well, poor Brady’s face now matched the color of his hair. Who knew Alpha Brady Hyder was capable of blushing like that.

“Charlotte...” Brady said hesitantly.

Charlotte turned and looked at the three of us, who were now standing just behind her.

“What?” she asked defiantly. “There is no point in hiding it. From what you all told me about Dr. Hyder, he

I looked back at Dr. Hyder, who seemed... amused.

“Are you and Brady second chance mates?” he asked.

“We do not know. My wolf is in hibernation because I rejected my mate, Derek, yesterday. That is why I

went to the bar. Brady and I bonded over our heartache.”

“Derek?”

“Yes. Derek Ab bott. He was my mate.”

“DEREK AB BOTT WAS YOUR MATE?” Brady exclaimed.

thing

I guess that was another thing Charlotte and Brady did not talk about last night. Sigh.

“Derek Ab bott was your mate?” Dr. Hyder repeated, but with a much more academic tone than Brady’s.

Charlotte nodded. “Yes, but he was a complete jerk and he was obsessed with Lil

I rejected him after

he got mad at me for transposing a couple of digits on Lily’s address, which I only gave to him so that he could meet me there this weekend for a double date with James and Lily. He said I cost him millions of

dollars.”

“The Moon Goddess works in mysterious ways,” Dr. Hyder said in wonder, almost to himself. He went

over and closed the office door and then turned back to us.

“Derek Ab bott is the one that Evelyn has called several times,” he explained.

“I think he is the tracker that

she hired.”

James and I looked at Dr. Hyder in surprise.

“Evelyn? As in, Brady’s Evelyn? Why would she hire a tracker to find me?” I asked.

“Brady did not tell you?”

“No.”

“Did he tell you that Sammy was kidnapped?”

Charlotte, James, and I all looked at Brady in angry horror.

Brady shrugged his shoulders and sat down in a guest chair. “Sorry. We got a little distracted on the plane.”

“Meaning instead of telling James and Lily that your ex is the one after them and that your son has been kidnapped, you thought it more important to measure di ck size with James?” Charlotte asked accusingly.

Brady shook his head. “Sammy is fine. My mother is with him now,” he said in a defeated tone.

“Not an answer, Brady,” Charlotte responded.

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(Lily POV)

After letting Brady stew for another minute or so under Charlotte’s questioning glare, Dr. Hyder invited us to all sit down. He then filled us in on what happened to Sammy, and about everything that he had

discovered about Evelyn.

James, in turn, filled Dr. Hyder in on the conversation that we had had on the airplane. Like Brady, Dr. Hyder was shocked to find out that Evelyn and Andrew were chosen mates as opposed to second chance mates. He was also shocked to hear that Evelyn had cheated on Brady for a year before the rejection.

Watching Dr. Hyder, I could tell that the shock was doing a number on him. Dr. Hyder does not like to be surprised, and he does not like it when his opponent makes a move that he has not anticipated; those things make him feel out of control. And if there is one thing that Dr. Hyder hates, it is not being in

control.

Brady, for his part, mostly listened. Charlotte sat next to him, holding his hand.

“I don’t get it,” I said after a while. “Does all of this mean that it has been Evelyn after me this whole

time? If so, why?”

Dr. Hyder shook his head.

“No. I think Evelyn came into this relatively late in the game, and she was motivated by money and

jealousy. She just happened to get into contact with some of the more powerful enemies, judging from

the amount of money that they were willing to offer her.

I am concerned about Evelyn’s role, but I am more concerned about how the enemies were able to

Identify Evelyn as someone in a position to help them. Something is not right about the whole thing.

There is a piece that we are still missing.

Sadly, even if I was willing to allow Brady to alpha-order a pregnant female- which as a doctor I will not-

my suspicion is that Evelyn does not have all of the answers. That is why I was hoping that she, or the

kidnappers, would do something that would lead us to who is really behind all of this. Or at least who is

behind this immediate threat.

Unfortunately, at this point, I am not sure who it could be.

The forces of evil are plentiful. We know that most of the enemies have wanted you for your powers. Now that you and James are marked, they cannot get the powers and so those threats are gone.

But whoever is working with Evelyn and arranged the kidnapping of Sammy still wants you. That tells me that whoever is working with Evelyn has another motive.”

I felt James tense beside me. Like he normally does when he is stressed, he pulled me onto his lap. Brady glared at him, but James did not care. Nor did I at that point. My guilt about hurting Brady was gone, especially now that Charlotte was here. Now I was just annoyed. Brady needed to move on.

“They are not going to get Lily,” James said coldly.

“Of course not, Son. But the reason they are not going to get Lily is that we are going to figure out who they are and we are going to deal with them. We are also going to make sure that you and Lily are familiar with, and able to use, the powers that the Moon Goddess gave you to help you deal with these situations.”

Dr. Hyder’s words somehow seemed to make James feel better, but I still felt confused and unsettled..

“Dr. Hyder, I thought that you had sources that were telling you things. For example, you knew that the enemies knew where I was. Can’t those sources tell you who they are working for and who is behind all of this?”

Dr. Hyder frowned:

“My sources have largely consisted of friends who work with the werewolf council. At first, they were

freely sharing information with me about things that they heard through their networks about the ‘chosen

one.’ But then the information stream slowed to a trickle. That, coupled with other evidence, is why I first

began to suspect that the council had been compromised. Thanks to your brother, we now have a better

understanding of specifically who has been compromised and how, but the information I am receiving is

still minimal.”

“Does that mean that the council itself is behind this?” James asked. “After all, Lily has the power to

remove them from their positions, and she has more power than any of them.”

“The thought occurred to me, but so far we have not been able to find any link between Black Moon and

the council other than me.”

“What about my mother? Do you think that my mother could be behind this? We know she is the one blackmailing the council members, and she wanted me...”

I paused, the words being hard to admit out loud.

we know+

we know that she wanted/me... dead.”

“I do not believe for a second that your mother has any idea that you are chosen one, Lily,” James said as he rubbed my back. “She has always treated you as being worthless and beneath her. If she thought you

tried to do that.”

“True, but

Suddenly Dr. Hyder put his hand up, indicating that we should all stop talking.

“We have a visitor coming,” he explained.

Two minutes later, the door to the alpha office door slammed open. A crying she-wolf who looked much like me walked into the room. Brady stood up and she threw herself into his arms, earning a loud growl

from Charlotte.

“Evelyn,” I said almost in a whisper. Finally, I was meeting the infamous Evelyn.

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(Lily POV)

Brady stood up and Evelyn threw herself into his arms. Charlotte growled, but Evelyn did not seem to

notice.

“Brady, oh thank Goddess you are back,” Evelyn said through her tears. “I am so scared for Sammy. I have no idea who has him or what they are doing to him. We have to find him and get him back!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Brady gent

ly pushed Evelyn away, but nevertheless looked at her sympathetically. He even wiped a few of

her tears off her cheeks.

“We will find him, Evelyn. I know that we will.”

“Please tell me we are not watching what I think we are watching.” James linked me.

I shook my head in disbelief. I wished I had something to clobber Brady over the head with.

“It is like he forgot that it is her fault that Sammy was kidnapped,” I responded to James. “And that

Sammy is safe.”

Watching the scene, Charlotte growled for a second time. This time, Evelyn turned around. She acted as

though she had not previously realized that there were other people in the room.

When Evelyn's eyes landed on me, her face went from tear-stained to b&&chy in a second flat. But for the

situation that we were in, I might have been quasi-impressed by how quickly she was able to change her

mood.

She took a step towards me.

"Wow, so it is true. Brady really did bring his wh ore back with him. Well, I guess that it is good that you are

here, Lillian. We can trade your life for Sammy's and then Brady can find another wh ore to

f&&k."

James growled. "Watch your words, Evelyn. Brady and Dr. Hyder may care that you are pregnant, but I do

not. And we are not trading anyone's life for your f&&k up."

"Like hell we aren't! This is my son that we are talking about! He is just a little boy, and it is this b&&ch's fault Sammy was kidnapped, not mine. If Lilibet had not come here, the pack would never have been

attacked and my son would be safe!!!"

James growled again.

"Oh, give me a break James. No one will miss her anyway. Her own family does not want her, and her own

better off that way."

Evelyn's words did not bother me, but I could practically see the steam coming out of James' ears. I put

my hand on his arm hoping to calm him down.

Evelyn turned back to Brady, and her face immediately went back to the teary face she had been wearing. before. “Brady, you promised me that we would get our son back. We know what they want. Please! Tell

me you are going to be on my side on this one. On Sammy’s side!!!!”

Brady sighed. “Evelyn, we need to talk about what happened. You need to tell us what you know.”

Evelyn whimpered. “I already told you everything that I know, Brady! Those awful men stole our son! We

have to give them what they want and get him back!!! He is so young! He is not going to understand why

he is not with us and why those bad men want to hurt him!!!”

“Tell me what you know, Evelyn,” Brady said in a much more forceful voice. “Now.”

Evelyn took a step back, acting shocked that Brady was using that tone with her.

“Why does it sound like you are accusing me, Brady? I thought you were on my side.”

“No one is on your side,” James growled.

Evelyn turned around again.

“What are you even doing here, James? I thought you would be at West Mountain Pack with

your

mate.

“I am with my mate,” James replied as he put his arm protectively around me.

Evelyn laughed and pointed at me. “This wh ore? Seriously, James? You went from perfect Stephanie to Brady’s leftovers?”

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“I will warn you for the last time, Evelyn. Watch your words,” James said in a menacing

“You do know that Stephanie is alive, right? Your mom called Andrew and let him know. They are

preparing a large welcome home slash engagement party for her and you. You do not have to settle for

second-best anymore.”

James let go of me and took several steps towards Evelyn. He looked like he was ready to attack her. However, Brady stepped in between them. Evelyn clung to Brady and started to cry once again.

James ordered Brady to move, but Brady refused.

“She is pregnant, James.”

“I am not going to hurt her, Brady. But I am also not willing to let her sit here and disrespect Lily without

consequences.

“Please calm down, James,” Brady pleaded.

Suddenly, Charlotte came up and slapped Brady across the face. Hard. The slap caught Brady off guard,

and he looked at Charlotte with hurt in his eyes.

“What was that for?” he asked her.

“Have you forgotten what Evelyn did to you? What she tried to do to Lily? She is not your mate anymore

and yet you are coddling her.”

“She is pregnant, Charlotte.”

“That did not stop you from fighting with her before. Why are you suddenly so worried about her feelings now?!?!?”

Brady looked completely stunned. He did not say anything.

“Why, Brady? Tell me? Hell, why even bother bringing me here if you were going to act like this towards your ex? If you still love her?”

“I DO NOT LOVE EVELYN ANYMORE!” Brady exclaimed.

He ran his hands through his hair.

“I did for a long time, okay, I admit that. Or at least I loved the idea of her. Even up until a few weeks ago I still loved her. BUT I DO NOT LOVE HER ANYMORE, CHARLOTTE! I don’t know when I stopped but I did.”

Charlotte continued to look at Brady accusingly. “Then why are you coddling her right now? Why are you standing between her and James? You know what she did!!!!”

“BECAUSE SHE IS STILL THE MOTHER OF MY SON! And no matter how evil she might be, I KNOW THAT SHE GENUINELY LOVES HIM! AND SHE IS PREGNANT! I AM NOT GOING TO PUNISH THE PUP FOR THE

MOTHER’S MISTAKES!!!!”

Evelyn looked at both of them as though she had been slapped. “Did you just call me evil? Say that I made

mistakes?”

Brady ignored her question, his eyes and attention focused completely on Charlotte. Charlotte stared right back at him, with an unreasonable expression on her face. I wondered whether she was having one.

of her doubt-snaps.

“Who are you?” Evelyn sneered at Charlotte. “Are you the replacement who is faster than I

thought.’

“ENOUGH,” Dr. Hyder cut in. “Sit down, everyone.”

Evelyn went to sit next to Brady, but Charlotte sat down in the chair next to Brady before Evelyn could.

Evelyn ordered Charlotte to move, but Charlotte rolled her eyes and Dr. Hyder intervened, telling Evelyn

she needed to sit in the chair directly across from him.

“Has Evelyn always been like this?” I asked James in the link.

“You mean like a b&&ch with two personalities?”

“Yes.”

“With Andrew living in Canada, and me... well... you know the past six years, I have not had many opportunities to interact with her. But I have never liked her. I always got a weird vibe from her. Never saw her act like this though.”

“Please do not kill her,” I asked him.

“My ability to honor that request is solely dependent on Evelyn. That and whether Charlotte beats me to the punch.”

“Do you think Charlotte’s wolf is waking up? It would be really fast after a rejection.”

“I don’t know. Something is going on though. Charlotte’s wolf is either awake or waking up. She is acting awfully possessive over a one-night stand, and humans do not growl like that.”

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 230

Chapter 0230

(Lily POV)

Av told you

“I have everything that I know,” Evelyn protested for what had to be the twentieth time in

a row.

James, Dr. Hyder, and I exchanged looks. Without saying anything, we all agreed that it was time to lay

out our cards.

“Evelyn, I know that were you were offered \$200 million for Lily,” Dr. Hyder said matter-of-factly. “I also know that you helped the imposters break into the security positions guarding Lily; I know you helped with the attack on the pack; and I know that you hired a tracker to find Lily when she left Black Moon.”

Evelyn paled

“No, I would never do such things,” she said adamantly. “My parents, brother, and nieces still live here. I would never do anything that might hurt them....”

Dr. Hyder slammed desk.

his fist on the

“I want the truth, Evelyn,” he said coldly.

Evelyn looked at Brady, tears welling up in her eyes.

“Brady, please... you have to believe me,” she pleaded.

“The truth, Evelyn,” Dr. Hyder repeated.

“I AM TELLING YOU THE TRUTH!” Evelyn screamed back.

Goddess, what a fool this she-wolf was. She grew up in this pack when Dr. Hyder was the alpha. She should know better than to lie to Dr. Hyder, much less yell at him. Pregnant or not, she was playing a

dangerous game.

“Evelyn, I know that you love our son,” Brady said, trying to reason with her. “If we want to get Sammy back-which I know you do you need to tell us who we are dealing with and what this is about.”

The tears started falling down Evelyn’s cheeks faster and faster. A part of me almost-stress, almost-

felt sorry for her.

“Why do you need to know who we are dealing with? You will just put Sammy in more danger if you try to

fight them! JUST GIVE THEM LILY! GIVE THEM LILY AND THEY WILL GIVE US BACK OUR SON!!!!”

“You have five seconds to give us the truth Evelyn. I am done playing with you,” Dr. Hyder said.

“I DID NOT DO ANYTHING!!!!!!”

Without saying anything, Dr. Hyder pulled out a portable speaker. He began to play snippets of audio recordings in which Evelyn was talking to Derek Abbott. He also read out loud text messages that she sent and had received, including messages from someone called “Big Daddy.”

The messages chilled me to the bone, knowing that the she-wolf they were talking about capturing was

A couple of times, Evelyn tried to get Dr. Hyder to stop playing the audio and reading the messages, but he refused to stop until he was done. It took him at least 45 minutes to get through it all.

As the messages were playing, I looked at Brady. He looked completely distraught. I mind-linked him to see if he was okay, and he told me that he already knew what Evelyn had done, but hearing it in her own

voice and in her own words was still really hard on him.

Once Dr. Hyder was done going through it all, Evelyn looked so pale that we could practically see through

her. She sat with her hands between her knees, clearly unsure what she should do now.

“Who were you working for?” Dr. Hyder said.

Evelyn said nothing.

“You are making things worse for yourself, Evelyn. And for Sammy WHO WERE. YOU. WORKING. FOR???”

I will not ask again.”

Evelyn broke down in angry tears and then stood up again so that she could look at Brady.

“This is all your fault, you know that right, Brady?” she said accusingly. “Why couldn’t you just love me? I loved you so much, but I was never good enough for you. Why?!?!”

“You cheated on him for a year, Evelyn. How much could you really love him if you could cheat on him like that?” Charlotte asked.

Evelyn looked at Charlotte in shock.

“Yeah, we know about the cheating too. And the fact that Andrew was your chosen mate, not your second chance mate,” Charlotte said triumphantly. “That is part of the reason that the mate bond is still impacting Brady. I bet it impacts you, too. With chosen mates, both of you need to mark others to break the bond.

fully

“STAY OUT OF THIS, YOU B&&CH!”

“Sorry, no,” Charlotte said spitefully.

“Brady, tell your whore to leave me alone!” Evelyn demanded.

I “She is not a wh ore, Evelyn. And if I hear you call one more she-wolf a wh ore, no matter who it is, I am going to personally take you to the dungeons. Although you are probably headed there anyway.

Besides, I would like to know the answer to Charlotte’s question myself.

I have spent YEARS regretting what happened between us. I have spent YEARS thinking that I was solely responsible for our relationship being broken, and YEARS feeling guilty for wanting to see what else was out there. But I never lied to you and I never cheated on you. I rejected you so that you would not be hurt. Was I a mo ron? Yes. Should I have ignored the will of the Moon Goddess? No.

But YOU. You, Evelyn, cheated on me FOR A YEAR. And instead of confessing, you let me SPEND YEARS living in regret. YOU WERE LITERALLY SLEEPING WITH ANDREW AND I AT THE SAME TIME! YOU DID

NOT EVEN KNOW IF SAMMY WAS MY PUP!!!

How could you do all that if you really loved me? HOW?!?!?!?!?!?!?

Evelyn collapsed back in her chair, obviously feeling defeated. "I did not plan to cheat on you," she whispered. "But you and I always talked about having other mates out there. You and I never expected

that we would be together forever. And it made me feel really sad. But then I met Andrew, and he told me.

all the time how beautiful I was and how I was destined for great things. He told me that he and I were

meant to be together. He described looking forward to the day that I would mark him and make him my

mate. It made me feel valued and special."