

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 271

Chapter 0271

(Lily POV)

Another couple of months have passed, and the trials in both packs have finally all been completed. I am currently on my way to see Evelyn at Black Moon. I need to finally deliver to her the message that the Moon Goddess gave me, and she also wants to talk to Charlotte and I about her plans for her unborn pup.

Like all of the other trials, Evelyn's trial is now over. She was sentenced to 25 years That

in the dungor

was a harsh sentence, but she did not lose her wolf. When I talked to Edy, she told me that she wanted to stay with Evelyn. She said that Evelyn had lost her way, but buried under all of the jealousy and pain, she

really did have a good heart.

Interestingly, those sentiments were very similar to the ones that I received from most of the wolves that

I talked to. In fact, with the exception of the council member wolves that I freed on the night of the takeovers, the only other wolves who wanted to be freed from their humans were those belonging to

Stephanie, Sheila, my mother, Derek Ab bott, and Andrew.

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I suppose in retrospect that makes sense, but I had been really unsure of Randall's wolf going in. After everything that had come to light, I really did expect that Randall's wolf would want to be freed as well. However, he told me that everything Randall did was done out of love for Jane. It was a twisted, blinding love, but love nonetheless. Randall's wolf fully supported Randall getting a tough sentence for his crimes, but he still wished to stay with Randall and support him in the hopes that he could be redeemed.

4

Randall ultimately received a sentence of 25 years in the dungeons. He was also demoted to the rank of

Omega.

Jane received a very different sentence. By the time her trial was done, Jane had served roughly 60 days in the dungeons. Given the extreme remorse that Jane had shown, coupled with her limited knowledge of what was happening, the council and I agreed that 60 days was a sufficient amount of time served in the dungeons. However, we also gave her 1000 hours of community service and demoted her rank of Omega.

Since being released, James has been unwilling to visit Jane, and Jane has been unwilling to visit Randall. I fully support the decisions that both of them are making, but a part of me hopes that their family can eventually reconcile. I will not push James to do anything he is uncomfortable with, but I do want to gently bring up to James the possibility of reconnecting with Jane after she has successfully completed a decent chunk of her community service hours and started to prove herself again.

With respect to Stephanie and Sheila, the council recommended the same maximum sentence as the one that my mother received: life in the dungeons without the possibility of parole, and removal of their

wolves.

When I went in to free their wolves along with my mother's, it was a pretty somber experience. By the time I went in to see them, all three had spent a decent amount of time in the dungeons and it showed. They were well taken care of in the dungeons, but they still looked like a fraction of the females that they

used to be.

For a minute, I started to feel sorry for them..... to the point that I even started thinking about various books and care packages that I might be able to send them to help ease the boredom. Thankfully (or not), those feelings quickly died when each one began to feed me compliments, play up the sympathy card, and try to guilt me into agreeing to release them early. It was an unfortunate reminder that I had the

power to remove their wolves but not their demons.

With respect to Margie's employees, each received between 5 and 15 years in the dungeons, depending

on their level of knowledge and involvement.

Derek Abbott was a bit of a special case, because he absolutely needed to be punished, but it is difficult to make a celebrity in the human world disappear for years without bringing unwanted attention to the werewolf community. We ultimately decided to free his wolf and then use some of the information his

wolf gave us to have Derek brought up on criminal charges in the human world.

It takes much longer for a case to go to trial and be tried in the human world than ours, but we have been

watching the case carefully, and we currently anticipate that he will end up serving between 15 and 20

years in a human jail, when all is said and done.

I think that just leaves me with my father to update you on. His case was perhaps the most unusual of

them all. My father tried to avoid the trial by pleading guilty and stipulating to the maximum sentence on

the condition that he be housed in the dungeons along with my mother. We had to repeatedly explain to

my father that it did not work that way.

My father then tried a different tactic: he confessed to knowing everything that my mother did and to actively participating and helping her. The craziest part of this confession was that it was not true.

When I talked to my father's wolf, his wolf explained that my father knew some things but not many. He

knew, for example, that my mother was abusing me, but each time he would talk to her about it, she

would promise to stop and he would choose to believe her. Similarly, my father had hints that my mother

and Stephanie were doing horrible things, but he did not have exact deals and he readily accepted every quasi-rational explanation that was given to him because it was easier than dealing with the truth.

Ultimately, the council and I agreed to give my father his requested maximum sentence. However, unlike

my mother, my father's sentence allowed him the possibility of parole. And, because I am probably far

softer than I should be, I agreed to have him housed in the cell next to my mother's.

I should probably also tell you two other things about that last interaction with my father.

First, at the end of my conversation with his wolf, his wolf tried to reassure me that my father really did love me. "Unfortunately, he just loved Stephanie and your mom a lot more." I wish I had not been told me that last part, because it hurt. A lot. Suspecting it and knowing it are two different things.

Second, I did not tell him about Evelyn being his daughter. I actually planned to tell him, but I changed my mind at the last minute. Given that he would be in custody for possibly the rest of his life-and given that Evelyn would be in custody for the next very long chunk of hers- I did not see the point.

Moreover, telling him could only cause more pain... including for me, should he decide to make more of an effort with her than he has made with me. I know thinking like that is selfish, but I guess even the

chosen one isn't perfect.

Perhaps one day I will change my mind, get past my own selfishness, and tell him about Evelyn. Perhaps that will be the same day that I decide to go and visit him again... although I do not see that happening

any time soon.

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 272

Chapter 0272

(Lily POV)

After I arrived back at Black Moon, I met Charlotte for a quick lunch. We then headed to the dungeon visiting room together, where Evelyn was already chained to a table waiting for us. Like Stephanie and Sheila, she was being taken good care of, but she nevertheless looked awful.

“How are you, Evelyn?” I asked.

“As good as can be expected, being this pregnant and in here,” she sighed.

“You wanted to meet with us?” I asked politely.

“Yes, thank you. I know it may seem crazy for me to reach out to you after everything that happened, but

my wolf trusts you. And Charlotte, Sammy talks so highly of you every time he comes to see me.”

For the briefest moment, I half wondered if we were in the right visiting room. This was not the Evelyn

that called me and Charlotte wh ores as recently as her trial. This Evelyn seemed very, very different.

“What is going on, Evelyn?” Charlotte asked.

Evelyn sighed. “This pup is going to be arriving soon, and I need a plan. I originally thought that he would

go live with his father in Canada, but when I wrote Andrew, I got a letter back saying that Andrew was

also in custody here?”

I nodded. “Yes.”

“And he isn’t getting out any time soon, just like me?”

“Correct. He has been sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.”

Evelyn wiped a tear from her cheek. “I am really, really sorry. I...”

“Where is all of this coming from, Evelyn? Why the sudden change in attitude?”

Evelyn looked away. “I don’t know. I think maybe it is just the reality finally hitting me. I have a pup out

there, who can only see his mommy behind bars, and I have another one on the way who will not be able

to have a normal relationship with either of his parents. And for what? Some petty jealousy?”

The sincerity in Evelyn’s words floored me.

She wiped a few more tears from her face, as Charlotte and I continued to stare at her, unsure how to

respond.

“Look,” she said. “I heard that there are a couple of mothers at West Mountain Pack that have pups. I need to make a plan for this pup, and I was wondering what they are doing with theirs.”

I frowned. “Well, Evelyn, every situation is different. For example, my sister’s pup -” I paused, feeling guilty that I was not saying “our sister’s” is being raised by his human father in Europe. He has always been primarily raised by his father, and Stephanie does not have much interest in him, so we have decided to let him stay there. When he turns 14, though, he will have to come back to our pack. We have contacted his father, and he has agreed.

Antonio agreed only after James threatened to bring down his operation with some of the information that learned from Derek Abbott’s wolf, but still... he agreed.

“What about the other one?” Evelyn asked.

“Neither set of grandparents is in a position to take Sheila’s-pup in, and both parents are serving dungeon sentences, so that pup will be adopted by our beta couple.”

“They can’t have pups of their own?” she asked, as though she already knew the answer.

I shook my head. “No. At least they do not think they can.”

Seriously, either Evelyn is the most amazing guesser on the planet, or the dungeon news feed is even

better than I realized.

“Evelvo

“What do you think I should do with my asked.

“We can’t answer that for you, Evelyn,” I responded. “You need to make that decision. We can help you, but that is really your decision and what you think would be best.”

Evelyn put her head down on the table. I could not tell if she was frustrated or angry or sad or what was

going on.

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 273

Chapter 0273

When she did not say anything for a few minutes, I decided to go ahead and give her the message I was

supposed to deliver earlier.

“Evelyn, this may sound a little weird, but I had an opportunity to talk to the Moon Goddess several

months ago.”

“Because you are the chosen one,” she said, not lifting her head off of the table.

Ok, it is definitely the jailhouse newsfeed.

“Yes. She gave me a message that I was supposed to give to you when I saw you. I am sorry that I did not give you the message earlier, but everything sort of happened really quickly...”

“What was the message?” Evelyn asked. Her head remained sideways on the table, but her tone was

curious

“She said that you sometimes ask her a question when you pray. It is usually the same question, and she

wanted to answer it for you.”

Evelyn sat up. “What... what was the answer?”

“Yes, she will and more.”

Evelyn began smiling and crying at the same time.

“I assume you understand the message?” I asked curiously.

Evelyn nodded. “Yes. At least I think so. When I first found out about Brady seeing someone, I got mad. I would pray to the Moon Goddess that it was not true, and that if it was true, she would take..

away

I

from him. And then, at the end of each prayer, I would ask a question. I asked it rhetorically, but I asked if

every time.”

“What was the question?” Charlotte asked curiously.

Evelyn looked down again. “I... I don’t know if I should say....”

“Oh, please do,” Charlotte said. “Now I’m really curious.”

“I would ask whether Brady’s wh ore could ever love my pup as much as I do.”

“Ok.... other than the use of the word ‘wh ore’ that isn’t too bad...” I responded.

“You only think that because I ended up being Brady’s wh ore, not you,” Charlotte commented.

Evelyn looked up. “Yes... but don’t you get it? It is a sign.”

We both looked at Evelyn like she was crazy. “Huh?”

“The answer.” Evelyn explained, starting to seem excited. “The answer was that Brady’s wh ore will love

my pup as much as I do and more.”

“Why is that making you seem excited?” I asked.

“Because..... Because it is also an answer to my current prayer.”

She looked at Charlotte again. “Look, I know I have made some mistakes. A lot of them. And I am paying for them. And I have also called you both some really horrible names. But deep down, I will always be a mother who wants the best for her pups. Sammy tells me how much he loves you. He told me that the

Moon Goddess said that you were his gift.”

Charlotte began to soften. “Yes....”

“So.... I know this is a lot to ask. I know it is. But... I don’t want my parents to raise this pup. I want him. raised with Sammy. I want them to grow up together and be siblings. That is why I asked you to come down today, too, Charlotte. I wanted to ask you if you would be willing to consider adopting my unborn pup, but I was scared to ask you, and the same question was going through my mind again... only without the wh ore part. When I put my head down, I was thinking about whether I could ask you and Brady... and whether you could possibly love my pup the way that I would. And then Lily chose that moment to tell me

about the message.

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Charlotte and I exchanged looks.

“I think that is the only time I have ever been grateful to be called a whore,” Charlotte joked.

And that is how Charlotte and Brady came to adopt Evelyn’s pup.

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 274

Chapter 0274

(Lily POV)

(A few months later)

Something is up, but I do not know what that “something” is. What I do know is that everyone has been

acting really strangely today.

It started when James brought me breakfast in bed... that he had taken the time to cook himself. Then,

after we had both eaten, he insisted that I take a long bath and relax for a while. Normally that his not-so-

subtle way of getting me naked, but to my disappointment...instead of getting in the bathtub with me... he

then ran off to take care of some “pack business.”

When I got out of the bathtub, Jessica and Charlotte were waiting for me in our bedroom. It was not a

surprise to see Jessica -she has even fewer boundaries than Charlotte if that is possible- but I was

shocked to see Charlotte because I had not known that she was coming into town today.

Once I was dressed in the “comfy” clothes that they insisted I wear, they blindfolded me and led me to a

car. They did not let me remove the blindfold until we arrived at our destination, which turned out to be a

full-service spa.

We spent the next several hours getting pampered with manicures, pedicures, massages, facials, and hair

treatments. When all that was done, they brought out a beautiful black lace dress and asked me to put it

When I came out, they were also dressed up.

All day long, I kept asking them what was going on. They would not tell me, and James would not either

when I texted him. He just told me to enjoy my day and that he had everything covered at the packhouse.

My mind ran wild with various possibilities of what might be going on. If I did not know any better, I would have assumed that this was a set up for a marriage proposal, but James proposed to me months ago. 1

My next thought was that they were going to surprise me with a wedding... but James and I had already planned our wedding to occur on Christmas Eve in a couple of months, and I knew there was no way that

Charlotte would let me wear black to my wedding. More importantly, I knew everyone knew how

important it was to me to have Dr. Hyder walk me down the aisle, and he and his wife are currently on a

well-deserved second honeymoon in France.

Then I considered whether it had something to do with medical school, but I was not scheduled to

resume my classes until January.

So... the bottom line was... I really had no idea.

Jessica and Charlotte put the blindfold back on me, being careful not to disturb my freshly done makeup. We then drove to our next location. This time, they made me continue to wear the blindfold even after we

got out of the car.

Finally, after what felt like several minutes of turns, Charlotte told me to remove my blindfold. But when I

did so, I found myself in a large darkened room.

And then the lights turned on. And then a large crowd of people screamed "Surprise!" at the top of their

lungs. I seriously almost died from a heart attack.

I looked around and immediately locked eyes with James, who was looking at me with both love and

expectation in his eyes.

"What is going on?" I asked.

"Did you forget what day today is?"

"What?"

James sighed with a hint of sadness as he grabbed my hand.

"Look around, Lily," he suggested.

I did as he suggested, and then immediately realized what was going on. Today was my birthday. It had been so long since I had celebrated it, and we had had so much going on, that I had completely forgotten

about it.

But James had not. And neither had anyone in the crowd.

I started to tear up, but Jessica and Charlotte immediately scolded me saying that my mascara was not waterproof. So, instead of crying, I began hugging everyone, starting of course with James.

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 275

Chapter 0275

I could not believe that they had done all of this for me.

We spent the next few hours eating, dancing, and laughing. I did not think the night could get any better,

but then it did.

James pulled me aside.

“Sweetheart, I don’t know if you noticed the colors of the decorations...

“They are beautiful,” I told him. And they were. They were two different colors of blue, plus white and

silver.

“There are two reasons that I had them go with this color scheme,” James explained. “I know your favorite colors are more fall colors, but I was worried that if we went with those, it would remind you too much of what happened on your 14th birthday. So I went instead with this color scheme, which just so

happens to match the gift that I got you.”

“James, you did not have to get me—

“Stop. Yes, I did. I have many years of birthdays to make up for missing. But if makes you feel any better, the gift is for both of us really. It will also come in handy for our next business adventure.”

I wrinkled my eyebrows. “What are you talking about?”

James handed me two envelopes. I opened the first one, and it was a deed reflecting the recent purchase.

of a building in Ravenswood.

I looked up at James and he was smiling ear to ear. “That is the deed for the building where your old apartment was. We... you... now own the building. We can go back to the apartment any time we want, and any time we are in town.”

I smiled right back at him, but I was still a little confused. “Why?”

“That is the apartment where you told me that you loved me for the first time. It is also the apartment that we mated and marked in for the first time. I could not bear to lose it, so... I bought it.”

“James, that had to cost so much money...”

“The pack is doing much better financially. All of our old trade agreements have been restored, and we have actually been able to secure a few new ones. Plus, having an apartment building in Ravenswood makes sense, because...”

James paused and grimaced.

“What?”

“I know we are supposed to make all big decisions about the pack together, but I have been thinking a lot about how we need to diversify our investments so that we are more protected for the future...”

“And?”

“And Charlotte and her dad helped me convince the Wolf Packers to sell me a 15% stake in the team,”

James blurted out.

I could tell he thought I was going to be angry with him; I am definitely the far more financially

conservative one between us. But instead of being angry with him, I decided to top his surprise with one

of my own.

“I hope one of the larger apartments in the building is vacant,” I said simply.

“Why?”

“Because we are going to need more space.”

“For?”

“You, me, and our pup.”

I watched as James processed what he just told me. “What? How?”

“I don’t think I need to tell you the how...”

“No, but we haven’t been trying?”

I laughed. “I said the same thing to Rose when I found out yesterday. She said it was sort of embarrassing

that with as much unprotected sex as we have been having and all my medical training, I could even ask.

She said it is a miracle that we are not already on our fourth pup by now.”

James picked me up and twirled me around in excitement.

“I love you so much,” he said when he finally put me down.

“I love you too, James.”

And that is how the second part of our story finally started.

The takeovers may have marked the end of our first story, but this pup and our new life would officially

mark the second one. The better one. The one I had always dreamed of.