

## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 201

### Chapter 0201

(Derek POV)

I already mentioned that I take on side jobs. Almost all human celebrities do; that is where the real

money comes from. The most common side hustle is to endorse products and film commercials, but I

find most commercials demeaning, and I legit could care less about what brand of soap some f&ing

human wants to use.

After trying-and failing to fake my way through a few bullsh&t commercials, I discovered almost by

accident that I was uniquely qualified for a very different type of side hustle. Even better, it pays a ton

better than commercials.

Specifically, desperate wolves from around the world pay me big money to travel around human

territories, enter populated areas, and locate missing (or hiding) werewolves.

Here is why it makes sense, and why I am uniquely qualified: Werewolves are inherently social

creatures, and while in human territories, our subconscious tends to draw us to any other wolves that

may be nearby. Given that subconscious draw and the fact that I typically go to 5-10 different cities a

week for various public events and races, I have good luck just accidentally running into wolves.

Just as importantly, as a celebrity, I am considered by most to be “non-threatening.” It is amazing the

amount of information that people will voluntarily give me about themselves and others around them

without a second thought. I once even had a mother give me her adult daughter’s phone and phone

password within ten minutes of meeting her.

Generally speaking, I can generally locate a missing/ hiding wolf within around nine to twelve months or

so... sooner if the customer can narrow down places that the wolf is likely to go. I am only paid if I am

successful, so it is a risk-free proposition for the customer and the work only increases my travel slightly

overall.

The only dangerous or uncomfortable part of the job is the “secure and transport” part—especially with

uncooperative targets who have been in hiding— but I have figured out reliable methods over the years. I

have not lost one yet.

Anyhow, as I already mentioned, just before I left for the gym’s grand opening, I received a new

assignment. This one was to keep my eyes out for a she-wolf named “Lillian, Lilibet, Lillith, or something

like that” who “looks a lot like” a picture the customer would send me and “probably went to human

territory outside of the western part of the United States”

It was very little to go on, but that was why the pay was so good. And I have worked with less. I agreed

to send over a proposed contract the next day.

I was floored when the picture came through my text messages thirty minutes later. Assuming I was right, it would be the first time I found a missing wolf BEFORE I had even been hired.

I was pretty sure that the missing she-wolf was Charlotte's friend, who had been fighting with some soccer players about not being "Daisy" when I got to the bar. (I barely glanced at her friend as I approached Charlotte that night, but I have a photographic memory, which is another really big plus for the side hustle work.) The resemblance between Charlotte's friend and the picture was uncanny. Unless Charlotte's friend has multiple doppelgangers running around human territory living under fake names, I

was pretty sure Charlotte's friend was my target.

At that moment, it became even more important that I track down my mate, because she could of course lead me to her friend. That meant that I could reject Charlotte and make a ton of money all at once. Two

birds, one stone.

my utter delight, Charlotte attended the grand opening event that night and ended up approaching me there. Every inch of me wanted to take her to the bathroom and ravish her, but I knew I had to be sensible

about all of this. I continued to act like I was mad about the scene with Cody Wilson, and then I told her

that I would only consider spending time with her if she brought her "Daisy" friend out with us.

It sounded like nonsense even in my own head, and I had no idea how I was going to explain wanting her

friend to come, but thankfully Charlotte did not ask any questions. Instead, she was ecstatic and

immediately agreed to set up a double date.

The next day, I arrived at the restaurant roughly ten minutes late. I was immediately curious who

Charlotte's friend who I was introduced to as "Lily"- had with her. The male introduced himself not

only as James Anderson, but also as Lily's mate. He had the distinct smell of an alpha wolf, and he

seemed to be a pretty powerful one at that.

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Despite being an alpha, I could tell James was a fan of mine, and that made my ego very happy. At the

same time, I was immediately suspicious about what was going on and what my customer was up to. I

may locate missing wolves for money, and my moral compass may be broken, but again I have limits. do not cheat on the mate bond, and I do not intentionally break up fated mating relationships.

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I discreetly texted my customer to get some more information about who James Anderson was. The

response surprised me. James Anderson was actually Lily's sister's mate. My customer—who seemed surprised that James and Lily were together— then explained a little more, saying that Lily lost her wolf after she caused her sister to get attacked by a group of rogues in an effort to steal James away.

In other words, Lily was a mate-stealing b&tch. No wonder they were hunting her down. That was good news for me. It meant that I could bring Lily back to whoever was looking for her without feeling guilty.

I started taunting Lily and James about their relationship. Their weird responses to some of my taunts seemed to confirm that what my customer said was true.

Great. We were back on track.

Unfortunately, somehow during all of this, Charlotte had gotten under my skin. I tried my best to ignore

I her all night, but when James and Lily went to dance, I could not avoid her anymore. Believe me, wanted to and I tried. But all it took was one look in her beautiful, expressive eyes and one heart-stealing

smile from her, and I was hooked.

That made me even more desperate to put distance between us.

That is why I said all those things about her breasts. Goddess knows Charlotte is perfect as-is. The problem was that she was too perfect. I just said those things to make her hate me. Instead of punching me, Charlotte proposed getting breast implants. I could tell from Lily's reaction that this was very

uncharacteristic of Charlotte.

That meant that the mate bond was making Charlotte just as stupid as it was making me. It also meant that I was right that rejection was the only fair option for both of us.

Eventually, Lily and James left the restaurant early. I was not surprised that they left; I knew that I had pushed things too far. But I was also not worried; all I had to do was get the contract signed with my customer and then find out how and where my customer wanted Lily delivered.

Then, once all the paperwork was done and the logistics were decided upon, I would use Charlotte to

bring me back to Lily. That meant spending a few more days with Charlotte, but I was willing to make the

sacrifice.

## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 202

Chapter 0202

(James POV)

Of all the fucking nights for Brady to show up in Ravenwood, he had to pick the night that Lily and I finally planned to mark one another.

Because of course he would. It was like something in Brady had been pre-programmed to irritate me as

much as possible.

I had no idea how Brady figured out Lily's address, and I had very little time to ask. Instead, I had to remain focused on controlling my temper and preventing Luke from taking over and doing something stupid. As much as I hated the guy, he meant something to Lily. Because of that, hurting him was the last

thing that I wanted to do.

After demanding to know where Lily was -and after a few choice words with me at the door-, Brady angrily pushed past me into the apartment. I did not try to stop him; the last thing that I wanted was to get into a fight with him in the middle of Lily's apartment complex.

I could not tell if Brady did not know how close I was to losing it, or if he simply did not care. Either way, he said everything he could think of to try to get under my skin. For example, he told me that he was there "to protect Lily" and "to save Lily" from me. He also repeatedly brought up the past, reminding me of my

prior mistakes and the fact that I did not deserve Lily.

A part of me agreed with Brady, whereas a bigger part of me wanted to kill him, so I mostly kept quiet and let him get it out of his system. My silence seemed to inflame him more.

Then, when Brady finally noticed all the candles and roses laid out everywhere, he really began to lose his shit. Specifically, with his face redder than his hair, he tried to physically attack me while at the same time accusing me of trying to exploit the dangerous situation in order to "try to" seduce Lily.

"Tell him that we have already seduced Lily. Many, many times," Luke begged in our link.

"Shut up, Wolf," I replied, as I dodged one of Brady's attacks. "You know Lily would be pissed if we told

him that."

“He needs to know that Lily is ours,” Luke protested.

“She already is ours. Mark or no mark. Brady being here does not change that.”

“Are you sure about that?”

I thought for a moment. I could not help but smile as the answer occurred to me. “Yeah... yeah, I am. Lily

meant it when she said she loves me.”

Just then, I felt a punch to my face. Son of a b&&ch. My conversation with Luke had distracted me.

Now, I know said that I did not want to hurt Brady, but nowhere did I say that I was willing to give him freebies against me. F&&k that. I was faster and stronger than Brady, even with him having a special wolf.

Within sixty seconds, I had his head firmly in a headlock, fighting every instinct in my body that wanted to

shift into Luke and take the fight further.

Of course, that was the moment that Lily finally walked in.

(Lily POV)

Leaving the girls' home for the last time was bittersweet. I had not worked there long, but those girls left a

mark on me. I was sad to leave them.

At the same time, I was excited about James and I agreeing to finally mark each other. I felt ready to move on to the next chapters of our lives. I also felt ready to return to our pack and face our families

together.

Wanting tonight to be extra special, I made a last-minute decision to stop by a lingerie store on the way back. I knew James would be irritated with me taking extra risks by not coming directly home, but I hoped

that he would be nevertheless pleased with the outcome of my shopping trip.

I was practically skipping when I walked up the stairs to my apartment.

My excitement faded as I heard the voices of James and Brady arguing with one another. And my

excitement morphed quickly into anger as I walked in and saw James holding Brady in a headlock.

## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 203

### Chapter 0203

“What the Goddess is going on here?” I demanded angrily.

James let go of Brady and gave me a strange look that conveyed both guilt and male pride.

Once released, Brady stood up straight and came running over to me. He wrapped me in a hug and lifted me off the ground. James immediately began growling.

Meanwhile, realizing that I was not hugging him back, Brady placed me back on the ground and looked at

me in confusion.

“Lily, I am here. We can leave. You do not have to stay with this a&&hole anymore. I can protect you now. My dad is looking after the pack so you and I can go anywhere you want.”

I walked over to a chair and dropped my purse and shopping bag down as I tried to collect my thoughts.

Although I was angry and confused about what I had walked in on, when my eyes landed on the candles and roses everywhere, I softened a bit. I looked at James and gave him an appreciative smile.

“Thank you. It looks beautiful in here,” I told him via mind-link.

“You are late,” he responded.



I pointed to the shopping bag. "I made a quick stop on the way home."

James stepped forward so that he could see the name of the store. He then gulped. "For me?"

"Only for you," I confirmed as I felt myself blush a little bit.

"Lily?"

I turned around to face Brady again.

"Why are you here, Brady?" I asked.

"The results of the testing on the chocolate came back. Rose was right. The chocolate had been drugged. But not with the normal thin

you would expect to find. It had drugs in it that tell us that whoever is after you knows exactly who you are and why you are so special."

James stepped closer to me and put his arm around my shoulders. "Why couldn't you just tell us this by

phone?" James asked Brady.

Brady's eyes darted to James' arm and then back to me.

"Lily is not safe with you," Brady said through clenched teeth. "I know that you have been leaking

"What are you talking about?" I asked.

"Andrew. His cousin Andrew. I know that James has been sharing information with him. James does not

care about you, Lily. He cares about power and his crappy family, but he does not care about you. Please,

come with me. We can go somewhere. Anywhere. But I will keep you safe."

I felt James tense up next to me. Brady offered his hand to me, but I ignored it.

“Brady, James has been with me almost every waking moment since he got to Ravenswood. I do not

know what you think that you know, but James has not talked to Andrew and he has not leaked anything.”

Brady looked at me in disbelief. “Lily, you cannot tell me that you actually believe this a&&hole? That you

trust him? After everything that he has done to you?”

I studied Brady’s eyes, and I saw the fear and hurt in them. I suddenly realized that in trying to avoid being

part of a love triangle, and in trying to avoid hurting Brady’s feelings, I had actually made things worse. 1

I put my hands over my face and took a deep breath. I then turned to James. “James, can you please give

me and Brady a few minutes?”

James tensed up even more, and I felt his possessiveness taking hold. I gently cupped his face and

looked into his eyes, trying to reassure him. “Please. We just need a few minutes.”

James shot Brady a warning look and then nodded at me. “I will be in the bedroom.”

“Thank you.”

I then turned back to Brady. “Brady, why don’t you sit down. You and I need to talk.”

## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 204

Chapter 0204

(Lily POV)

Brady and I sat down on the couch, leaving a decent amount of space between us. Brady ran his hands through his hair, and then put his head in his hands.

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“You know that James will be able to hear everything we say. The walls in these human apartments are

really thin.”

I sighed.

“I know. And if it really bothers you, we can mind-link. But James will never agree to leave me here alone with you, and I assumed that you would be more comfortable with him in the bedroom than sitting here

with us while we talk.”

“Mind-link it is then,” Brady conceded.

“But you should also know that James and I do not keep secrets from one another.”

“Meaning that whatever I say to you right now you are going to tell him anyway?”

“Yes.”

Brady looked up at me, clearly hurt. It made me second guess whether I should have said it, but it was the

truth. And I needed to say it out loud not just for Brady’s benefit, but also for James’ as well. I did not

want James to think that I was going to hide anything from him.

“Lily, what happened to you? Are you even listening to yourself? It was not that long ago that I had to beg

you to meet with James in Hawaii. You were adamant that you never wanted to see him again. You

fought me tooth and nail about going on that trip. And now... now you are defending him, telling him your

secrets, and you are practically

at the hip to him. How does that make sense?"

I looked down at my hands. "People change, Brady. Things change."

Brady reached over and grabbed one of my hands. "People change, Lily, but not that fast. You are just

confused. The mate bond is strong: I get that. But you do not have to be with someone who has hurt you

just because of a mate bond."

"I am not with him just because of the mate bond, Brady."

"Then why?"

I hesitated, knowing my next words were going to hurt him.

"I love him."

Brady shook his head and squeezed my hand. "No, Lily. You don't. It is just the mate bond making you

think that you do."

I looked Brady in the eyes, wanting him to see how serious I was.

"No. If it was just the mate bond at work, I would have felt this way from day one. Or in Hawaii. I didn't. It

was only recently that I realized how I felt about him."

"The mate bond is just messing with your mind, Lily. It is trying to heal itself back together, and it is

making you think you feel things that you do not really feel."

I pulled my hand away from Brady. “No, it is more than that. Yes, the mate bond is playing a part, but there is more to it than that. We have communicated by phone or text message most of the time that I have been here in Ravenswood. I have gotten to know him. I know that given our recent history it seems fast, but we had a lot of earlier history that was good between us too. And on top of that, a lot of things have happened since in a very short period of time.”

“Lily”

“No, Brady. I need you to understand. I love James, and I would be lying to you and to myself if I tried to deny it.”

Brady looked at me as though I had just punched him.

“How can you say that?!?! Have you forgotten what he did to you?”

“Brady, please....”

Brady stood up and began pacing angrily, shooting me dirty looks every now and then,

to

“No, Lily. I will not try to understand. When someone hurts you as badly as James hurt you, you do not just forgive and forget. You move on. You look for something healthier. That is why I lost Evelyn. She had t

move on after what I did. And you deserve to do that too. Sometimes it is healthier to move on than to try

to overcome the hurt.”

“I am not the same as Evelyn, Brady. And our situations are completely different.”

“Different? Are you serious? Our situations are different only because I did not do to Evelyn even half of what James did to you. Have you really forgotten so easily?”

I did not say anything.

“Let me remind you, Lily. You had to shift for the first time by yourself because of the lies that James told

tortured and starved. Your own pack members and family called you a murderer and a slut. They accused you of being so unworthy that you lost your wolf. No one would be friends with you out of fear of the alpha family’s wrath and what James might do to them.

And why did James do all of that, Lily? Because HE WAS IN LOVE WITH YOUR SISTER. You messed up,

evil sister. He wanted her, not you, HER.

## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 205

### Chapter 0205

How can you possibly forget all of that?!”

I felt tears threatening to escape from my eyes..

“Brady, stop. Please. I know you are angry, but

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“Angry? No, Lily. I am not angry. I am disappointed. I thought you were better than this. I thought you were

stronger. How can you just forgive and forget someone who tortured you like James did, and all the while

turn your back on someone like me who wants nothing more than to love you and take care of you for the

rest of your life?!”

The tears started to run down my face. I stood up and went over to him, putting my hand on his arm.” Brady, I—”

“EXPLAIN IT TO ME, LILY! TELL ME HOW YOU CAN TURN DOWN MY LOVE IN FAVOR OF JAMES AND

HIS TOXICITY?”

Despite how angry Brady was and how much he was yelling at me, I suddenly realized that Brady was

crying as well. I felt my heart break for him and for our horrible situation.

“Brady, you do not love me,” I said honestly, “You love the idea of me. You love who you think I could be.

Who you think I... who you think I could replace.

Brady shook my hand off of his arm, resuming his pacing. Then, as though a light bulb went off in his

head, he spun around.

“Wait... are you choosing James because of Evelyn? Because you realized that you look like her? So f&&

ing what! Yes, you look like one another. Who cares. I have a type. A lot of guys do. That does not meant

that I love you any less.”

“Brady, stop. Please.”

Brady looked up in the sky, as though he was talking to the heavens above.

“It was that picture. That stupid picture. When you asked me on the airplane to show you that picture, I should have known that it was a bad idea. Goddess, how could I have been so stupid?!?!”

“IT WAS NOT JUST THE PICTURE!” I exclaimed. “Yes, the picture helped me piece everything together. But it was not just the picture. It was the places you took me; it was the things that you wanted to do together; it was the restaurants we ate at. They were all places and things that you enjoyed with Evelyn.”

Brady looked at me in disbelief. “I never gave you any details about what it was like to date Evelyn.”

“No, you didn’t. At least not on the airplane. But when we would go places, you would always bring her up. It was subtle, and you never mentioned her by name. At first I did not know if you were referring to one female or multiple females or a friend or a group of friends. But somehow, somehow, you always brought something up. With the exception of Hawaii, we never did anything new together. It was always something that you had done in the past, that had some memory attached to it.

And that was fine. I enjoyed it. I enjoyed spending time with you. But when you finally told me what happened with Evelyn, and you showed me her picture, it all clicked.

I am not Evelyn, Brady, and I do not want to be. I would much rather go to a chocolate factory or to a baseball game and eat pizza than go out to eat at some fancy restaurant. I would prefer to drink beer over

expensive champagne.

I can enjoy the nice restaurants and the champagne, but I will never enjoy them the same way that you

The same way that Evelyn did.”

Brady stopped pacing and stared at me. I could not tell if he was hurt or angry or confused or all of the

above. He did not say anything for a long while.

“So James is your baseball game and pizza?” he finally whispered.

“No. Yes. I don’t know. But I do know love him. The same way that you loved Evelyn. The same way that I

think you probably still love Evelyn.

“He is going to hurt you again, Lily. And I may or may not be here when he does.”

I wiped the tears from my eyes. “I am willing to take that chance.”

Brady headed towards the door, seeming defeated. “I am going to spend the next couple of nights at the Paramount Hotel, just in case you change your mind. I do not want to give up on you, Lily. You deserve the world.”



“You deserve the world, too, Brady. I mean that.”

With that, Brady walked out the door, I closed the door behind him and leaned my back against it as I continued to let out the tears.

James opened the door to the bedroom and looked at me hesitantly, with a huge frown on his face. I ran up to him and wrapped my arms around his waist, burying my head in his chest. He returned the hug kissed my forehead.

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## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 206

Chapter 0206

(Lily POV)

James took my hand and silently led me to the couch. He then sat down and pulled me onto his lap. I

buried my face in his chest, and he nuzzled his chin in my hair.

“Are you okay?” he asked me.

I nodded. “Yeah. It just sucks. I never meant to hurt him.”

James did not say anything, so then I added: “I am sorry that you had to hear all of that. That must have

been uncomfortable for you.

“No, you were right. I never would have agreed to leave you two alone. And if you had actually tried to talk

to him via mind-link, I would have interrupted every few seconds. As it was, it took all my willpower not to

storm in and put an end to Brady yelling at you. You did not deserve his guilt trip.

“I sort-of did though. I led him on. Not on purpose, but I did,”

“Do not blame yourself, Lily,” James said in a determined voice. “Brady saw what he wanted to see. That

was on him, not on you.”

I reached for James’ hand and intertwined our fingers together..

“Thank you.”

For a minute, neither of us said anything else.

After a while, I looked up at him, and he seemed to be lost in thought. I realized that something was bothering him.

“Are you okay?” I asked him.

“Yes. I am here with you,” he responded simply.

“The apartment looks beautiful,” I commented after another couple minutes of silence, hoping to get things back on track.

“I wanted tonight to be special.”

I reached up and stroked his cheek. “It still will be.”

James did not say anything. Instead, he went back to whatever thoughts were churning around his head.

“How did you do it, Lily?” James finally asked me. There was a surprising amount of somberness in his

“How did I do what?”

“How did you forgive and forget so easily? Brady was right about how much I hurt you. He was also right about how little time has passed. How did you do it?”

I got off James’ lap and sat on my knees so that I could look him directly in the eyes. I saw fear, shame,

and concern looking back at me.

“Are you worried that I am going to change my mind?” I asked him. “That I am going to regret being with

you?”

“Will you?”

“No.”

“How can you be so sure?”

“Two reasons. One, I trust Rose. And she wants this as much as I do.”

“But Rose-

I put one finger on James’ lips. “No buts. And I’m not done.”

James scowled at me, but I kept going anyway.

“Two, regardless of what Brady said or what you might think, I did not ‘forgive and forget.’ I have forgiven

you, but I have not forgotten.”

James gave me a strange look. “What are you saying?”

I took both of his hands and looked at him seriously.

“I am going into this relationship with my eyes wide open. I did not forget what you did, and I am not

pretending that it did not happen.

When I think about those awful six years, it still bothers me a lot. I still have a lot of emotional scars from

that time period, and I do not know if they will ever go away.

But you were only responsible for some of what happened. And I now understand why you did what you

did. Our parents manipulated you and everyone else as well. You were just a kid when they started playing

with your mind and with your emotions.

You are not blameless in it all, but everyone makes mistakes. I truly believe that you are so much more

than your mistakes or those horrible six years. I have seen and felt the changes in you, and I have seen

I do not believe what happened in the past defines who you are, and I do not believe that it has to define

who we are together.

You are the only male who has ever made my heart skip a beat just by walking into a room, and you are the only wolf-male or female- who I have ever felt completely comfortable being myself around-good, bad, or indifferent. You also are the only wolf that I have ever known that can somehow make me feel safe and protected while at the same time not treating me like a broken, helpless princess.

You are also the first and only male who I have ever truly loved, and now that I realize how I feel about

you, I will be damned if I let you go.”

## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 207

### Chapter 0207

James studied my face, absorbing my words.

“I do not deserve you, Lily.”

I gave James an annoyed look. “Bullshit. Plus, it is a little late to worry about that now, isn’t it?”

“We are not marked yet. You can still change your mind. I do not want to pressure you to do anything that

you do not want to do, or that you are not ready for.”

“Have you changed your mind?” I asked him.

“No.”

“Do you trust me?”

“With my life.”

“Then trust me when I tell you that I want this and I want you, I am not going to be with anyone who does

not deserve me. You have earned my respect and my love, and I want to be yours now and forever.”

James leaned over and kissed me gently. I wrapped my arms around his neck and returned the kiss.

“I want you to mark me, James,” I said once we broke for air.

“Once we do this, there is no going back.”

“Good. I do not want to go back. I want to go forward.”

“I am supposed to be the one with the romantic lines and speeches,” James fake-protested.

I giggled. “You can shower me with as many of them as you want to after we are marked.”

James smiled and reached for the hem of my shirt.

I gently pushed his hands away.

“Let me change first. I wanted tonight to be special too.”

James groaned.

“I still cannot believe you went shopping, especially knowing all the risks.”

I rolled my eyes. “You will not be complaining once you see what I got.”

(James POV)

Ten minutes later, Lily came out of the bathroom and my jaw hit the floor.

I did not think it was possible for her to look any more beautiful or s\*\*y than she did without any clothes

I was wrong.

...and Lily was right. I could not complain about her detour while she was dressed like this.

Lily's beautiful hair was down and wavy, and she was wearing a halter-style teddy. The teddy was sheer except for creamy white lace details that were strategically placed all over the garment. The neckline was low, revealing her ample cleavage. She had a sheer, creamy white robe draped over it.

"Oh my Goddess, Lily," I exclaimed.

"Do you like it?" she asked flirtatiously as she did a little twirl.

"Like it? Lily, I think I just came in my pants."

Lily giggled.

I slowly approached her like an animal in heat. Once I was within striking distance, I grabbed her and pulled her to my chest. I smashed my lips against hers.

I then picked her up by her a&& and carried her to the bed. Soon, I was laying on top of her, ready to explore every last inch of her perfect body.

I left her outfit on her for as long as I could, kissing and touching her through it. Once I could not take it anymore, I carefully removed it while ignoring my instinct to just rip it off. This was an outfit that she

would definitely have to wear again.

(Lily POV)

I was nearing my third climax of the night when James changed our positions so that I was straddling

him. As he continued to pound into me, he brushed my hair away from my marking spot. He started gently

nibbling at it, causing me to moan/in ecstasy.

“Ready?” he asked.

“Ready,” I confirmed with a huge smile.

“I love you, Lily.”

“I love you too, James.”

Without saying anything else, James licked and gently sucked on my marking spot again. I then felt his teeth extend and pierce my skin. The resulting orgasm hit me hard and fast, and it was an amazing, surreal feeling as I felt my soul literally connect with his.

As my orgasm started to subside, I repeated James’ motions on his neck. After licking and sucking on his marking spot, my teeth extended and pierced his skin, leaving my mark and connecting us forever.

I felt James tense and release within me, and then the world around me suddenly went dark.

I woke up fully clothed, standing in some sort of grand hall. I was confused about where I was, but I was relieved when I saw James standing next to me. He grabbed my hand and pulled me close to him, clearly

feeling protective even though he seemed just as confused as I was.

“Where are we?” I whispered to him.

He looked around us. “I don’t know. I do not recognize it.”/

Suddenly, we heard a female voice behind us.

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

## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 208

Chapter 0208

(Brady POV)

I left Lily’s apartment and headed back to my hotel room. I felt rejected, lonely, and angry. It made absolutely no sense to me why Lily would reject me in

favor of that asshole... much less how she could look me in the eye and tell me that she loves him.

"She told you that because it was the truth. She does love him," Kalen responded in our link.

Kalen and I normally get along pretty well. Our first and only major fight had to do with Evelyn and my

desire to sleep around.

Unfortunately, I could tell that Kalen and I were about to have major fight # 2.

"You are wrong, Kalen," I growled through the link. "Lily is just confused. She can't possibly love

someone who has done the things that James has done and who has hurt her like he has. She is better

than that."

"James regrets what he did, and he has changed. He has been working to become a better wolf."

I growled again.

"I regretted my actions, too, Kalen. I also changed. And Goddess knows how many years I have spent

working to become a better wolf and alpha. None of that was enough for Evelyn. And here James has

been trying for a couple of months?!?! How can that be enough for Lily?"

"This is not about you, Brady," Kalen said sadly. "Lily's relationship with James is about her and James,"

"F&&k you, Kalen. Of course Lily's relationship with James is about me. I love her! She should be with

me!"

"She is not yours."



I stood up and punched a hole in the wall.

“How can you say that, Kalen? Until four hours ago, you were completely on board with taking Lily and Rose as chosen mates. And now that we are here, you want to just give up?!?!?”

Kalen sighed through the link. “Lily was right, Brady. We got attached to Lily because of Evelyn.”

“BULLSH&T! Lily is special in her own right.”

“Yes, she is. But that is not why we got so attached to her. We need to move on and wait for our second chance mate.”

“IT HAS BEEN YEARS, KALEN. YEARS. If the Moon Goddess was going to give us a second chance mate, do you not think we would have met her by now?!?!?”

“We have not been ready.”

“How can we not be ready? I recognized my mistake. I apologized for my mistake. I have paid the consequences for my mistake. What more could I possibly do to be ready?”

“Let go.”

“What?!?!?”

“We will never be ready for a second chance mate unless we are willing to let go of our first one. We

need to let go of Evelyn and Edie.”

“F&&k you, Kalen,” I roared.

I hated the fact that Kalen sounded like he was on to something.

I hated even more that I did not know how to do what he wanted me to do. Even as angry as Evelyn has

made me over the past month or so, I still loved her. I would always love her.

I

“Lily belongs with us, Kalen. You may be done fighting for her, but I am not. Until she and James mark

each other, we still have a chance.”

“Um, Brady

“What?!?!?” I roared back.

“Look outside.”

My heart stopped. No. No, no, no, no, no. Please tell me this is not happening. Please.

My heart pounding fast against my chest, I went over to the window and looked out. The moon was full and pink. And clouds roughly shaped like crescent moons were appearing on either side of it.

NO

I felt tears starting to fall. I’m a grown alpha wolf and yet I was crying. Again. Mother f&&ker.

“It is okay, Brady. This is for the best. This means that Lily will be safer, and that she will be able to pursue her destiny.”

“It also means that the Moon Goddess has accepted James as her mate. How?!?! How can the Moon Goddess forgive James and yet not forgive me? I made ONE MISTAKE when I was 20 years old. Yes, I was stupid and selfish. BUT I WAS JUST TWENTY! How can the Moon Goddess punish me for that by

I heard Kalen trying to respond to me in our link, but I put up a block. He fought to break through it, but I fought to keep it up. I did not want anything to do with the Moon Goddess and my wolf right now. I felt

betrayed and angry.

I went over to my suitcase. This trip, I came prepared. I pulled out two bottles of wolfsbane whiskey. Hopefully this would be enough to silence Kalen and the other awful voices in my head for a while.

Roughly 90 minutes later, I found myself drunk and in the hotel bar. The wolfsbane whiskey had been enough to silence Kalen for a while, but it had not been enough to silence the heartbreak. I needed more.

I signaled for the bartender to bring me another shot when a pretty female plopped down beside me. I

glanced at her out of the corner of my eye.

“You look about as messed up as I do right now,” I commented.

“Double shot of whiskey,” she asked the bartender, ignoring my question.

“Not in a talkative mood, right now?” I asked.

“Not in the mood for anything,” she replied. “I just want to get drunk and forget for a while.”

The bartender served our drinks at the same time. I picked mine up and offered her a toast.

“Join the club,” I said. “I want to forget too. To forgetting.”

The female looked at me hesitantly, but then she picked up her glass and toasted me. “To forgetting.”

“Brady,” I said, introducing myself.

“Charlotte,” she replied.

## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 209

Chapter 0209

(Brady POV)

I took the shot in one fast gulp and then turned back to Charlotte.

“You know that you are supposed to shoot shots, not sip them, right?” I asked her.

She rolled her eyes. Even in my drunken stupor, I could not help but notice how pretty her eyes were.

“I don’t normally drink whiskey,” she explained.

“Ah. Then why now?”

“I just rejected my.... I just broke up with my boyfriend.”

I gave her a knowing smile. “Your mate. You just rejected your mate.”

Charlotte looked at me like she had just gotten caught with her hand in a cookie jar. I smiled. “I am a wolf

too.”

She looked relieved. “Oh. Really?”

“Yeah. You probably cannot smell my wolf that well right now because he is buried under a couple bottles.

of wolfsbane whiskey. I needed a break from all things Moon Goddess.”

Charlotte nodded. “Don’t I get that.”

“Wait... if you just rejected your mate, shouldn’t you be passed out in a hospital bed somewhere?”

Charlotte shook her head. “No. My wolf is buried for a while, dealing with the grief of it all, but before she left, she told me that I would be fine. The bond between my mate and I apparently was not very strong, so

the rejection did not knock me out.”

I was taken aback. “Wow.”

“Yep. It happened about two hours/ago. I did not want to go home, and my friend is busy with her mate, so

I came here.”

“It sounds like

your wolf was on the same page as you in terms of the rejection?”

Charlotte nodded and then tilted her head back so that she could drink the rest of her whiskey all at once. “Yeah. My mate was a jerk.”

I ordered more shots for Charlotte and I.

“I have been through a rejection, too. Only problem was that I was the one who was a jerk.”

“Is that why you are here tonight?”

“No. I am here because I fell for another she-wolf, but she fell for her a&&hole fated mate. I came into town to save her from him, and I told her that I loved her, and yet she went ahead and marked him tonight

anyway.”

“Oooh, that’s rough.”

“Yeah.”

We toasted our next shots and took them together.

“So what happened with your mate? Why did you reject him?”

“Hold on. I need another shot to answer that question.

Charlotte signaled for the bartender to bring us more shots. Once she took sixth shot, she looked at me.

“My mate was a jerk. An absolutely, positively horrible jerk. He was strangely obsessed with my friend. He insisted on her coming with us on our first date, and then he was weird with her and her mate, and then he insisted on me setting up a second double date with them. I agreed to do it, but then he asked me for

her address so that we could meet there.”

“That last part does not sound all that strange.”

there tonight.

“No, but the second double date was supposed to be in three days. He tried to go TONIGHT. And what is even crazier is that he got mad at me because I guess I accidentally wrote the address down wrong. I transposed a couple of digits. When I met him for dinner, he was angry and screaming at me and going on and on about how I somehow cost him \$100 million dollars or something.”

“Wow.”

“Crazy, right? And that is not even the worst part.”

“What is?”

“We need more shots. I am still not drunk enough for this part.”

Charlotte signaled for the bartender, but by this point, the bartender cut us off. We were both slurring our

words and barely sitting upright.

“Sh&t.”

“Well, I guess I will order a taxi, Are you okay to get home?” she asked me.

“I have a room upstairs.”

“Okay. Well, nice meeting you.”

I reached out and grabbed her hand. “Wait. I want to hear the rest of your story. What was the worst part?”

Charlotte shook her head. “I told you, I am not drunk enough for that part.”

“You cannot leave me hanging.”

” guess

Charlotte shrugged her shoulders. I will have to.”

I thought for a moment. “Well... the hotel gift store sells wine and spirits. Why don't we buy a few bottles

and go up to my room to drink them. Then you can tell me the rest of your story.”

Charlotte paused.

“You are not a serial killer or anything, right?”

“I have never served a day in prison.”

“So you may be a serial killer, but you have never been caught?”

“Exactly.”

“So you would be a smart serial killer?”

“You could say that.”

Charlotte put her finger to her chin, pretending to be in deep thought. “I guess if my options are to go home and face my parents-who will know immediately that something is wrong with me- versus go up to your hotel room and get killed by a smart serial killer

“-your drunken self would choose the serial killer?”

“Yeah. But before you kill me, promise me that you will tell me the rest of your rejection story?”

## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 210

Chapter 0210

“Deal.”

I do not know how Charlotte and I managed to hold ourselves together in the hotel gift store, but either the hotel worker just wanted our money or we did an okay job of seeming not completely drunk, because the gift shop sold us three bottles of wine, two bottles of champagne, and three bottles of tequila..

Charlotte and I then headed up to my room. Once there, I asked Charlotte what she wanted to start with.

She picked the champagne.

“Good choice.”

I popped the champagne bottle, but my drunk self did not think about where the cork might go, and so it ended up flying into one of the mirrors, shattering it. Charlotte started giggling, which made me laugh too. I poured the champagne into a plastic cup and handed it to her.

“You know, it is nice to meet someone who appreciates champagne. That she-wolf I told you about earlier? She actually told me that she prefers her mate to me because he likes beer, baseball, and pizza.

“WHAT?”

I nodded. “Right? You show a girl a nice time and take her to fancy restaurants and it turns out that she

wants is f&&ing beer and pizza.”

“I hate baseball,” she said seriously.

“I do not hate it, but it is not my favorite.”

“I hate it,” she repeated. “Living here in Ravenswood, I am surrounded by baseball players. My dad works for the baseball team as the team doctor. Everywhere I go it is baseball, baseball, baseball. And yet to me,

it is just a bunch of nonsense. Grown men throwing an f&&ing ball around.”

I smiled. “You are not wrong.”

Charlotte and I both quickly finished our first cups of champagne, and I poured each of us another.

I

“Ready to tell me the worst part of your story with your mate?” I asked.

She looked down embarrassed.

“Oh, come on, Charlotte. Don’t leave me hanging.”

“The night I met him, he called me a slut.”



“Why?”

“I was making out with a soccer player at the bar when he got there.” (1

“Okay. Not ideal, but it doesn’t sound that bad.”

“Well... I was also straddling him....”

“Oh.”

“And maybe d ry hu mping him too.”

“Ohhhhhhhh.”

“Yeah.”

Charlotte did not say anything for a while, and I started to feel bad for her.

“You know, I lost my first mate because I was a sl ut too!

“Yeah?”

“Yep.”

I then proceeded to tell Charlotte the whole sordid story with Evelyn. Even as drunk as she was, she listened intently and hung on my every word.

When I was done, she did not look at me with disgust. She did not seem judgmental at all. Maybe it was just the alcohol talking, but it felt nice.

“May I ask you a question?” she asked.

“Of course.”

“So... you have been with a lot of females, right?”

Had anyone else asked me that question, I would have been offended. But from Charlotte’s tone, I could

tell that she was not asking that to be mean.

“Enough, yeah.”

“Can I ask you something? And will you be honest with me?”

“Sure. Liquid honesty,” I said, holding up my cup.

“My mate said that my boobs are too small and that it makes me look less feminine. Is he right?”

“Stand up and let me see.”

She stood up.

“You are wearing a baggy sweater. Take it off.”

Charlotte gave me a look.

“You want honesty, right? Take it off and let me look.”

Charlotte shook her head, but nevertheless took off her sweater.

“Camisole too.”

“Are you trying to answer my question or get laid?” she asked.

“You want honesty, Charlotte. I cannot answer you about how your boobs compare to others unless I see them.”

“So bra off too?” she asked sarcastically.

I smirked. “I was not going to go that far, but I certainly will not complain.

Charlotte laughed and lifted her camisole. Then, to my utter surprise and delight, she unsnapped her bra

from the back and slid it off her arms.

“There. Now tell me. Are they too small?”

I stood up and got closer to her. “Hold on, I need to inspect them.”

Charlotte did not stop me as I reached out and ran my finger along the bottom of one of them. Encouraged, I took my hand and squeezed the whole thing. Then I did the same with her other one.

“And?”

“And they appear to be perfect. But there is only one way to really tell.”

“And that is?”

For a moment, I was not sure if my drunk self was going to be able to pull this next line off. But something

in me wanted to try.

“I need... to taste them.”

Charlotte gulped.

I left my hands on her breasts as i stared into her eyes, waiting for her answer.

“You really think they are perfect?”

“I said they look perfect. Only a taste test will reveal if they actually ARE perfect.”

Charlotte smiled. “Then what are you waiting for?”

That was all the permission that I needed.

And that is how I ended up sleeping with Charlotte.