

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 231

Chapter 0231

“Then why did you stay with me? Why not break up with me and be with him?” Brady asked, the pain evident in his voice.

“BECAUSE I STILL LOVED YOU! I NEVER LOVED ANDREW! I LOVED YOU!” Evelyn whisper-yelled. “Andrew begged me to spend my 20th birthday with him in Canada, because he wanted us to be together when I could first identify my mate, But I insisted on being at Black Moon because a small part of me hoped that

you would be my mate and not him.

ted you to have

And then you were. And I was so happy. But you were not. Instead, you panicked. I wanted you to have the same excitement about marking each other that Andrew would have had, but you did not. He made me feel special, but you made me feel like an obligation or a burden.”

Brady frowned as Evelyn paused.

“I moved to Andrew’s pack as soon as I could after the rejection. Andrew was relieved that I came back to him. He said it did not matter that we were not fated, mates, because he knew that the Moon Goddess wanted us to be together. I was overwhelmed by heartbreak and the emotions of it all, and so I agreed.

We marked each other, making me his forever.”

“It has been YEARS. Why not leave it there? Why focus on Lily now?”

Charlotte asked softly.

“Because the bond is not fully broken! I mean it is, but I still have feelings for you, Brady. I always have.

But I wanted you to fight for me. I wanted you to threaten to kill Andrew so that you could have me back.

Hell, there were times that I actually wanted you to kill him. But you never did. I told myself that it was okay, because at least I could tell that you were suffering and living with your

regret. But then my family told me that Lillith was here and you had been taking her places and seeming

happy. And I... I just could not accept that. It was not fair:”

Brady sighed. “I think we know the rest,” he said. “But what we do not know is

who you are working with and how they found you. And why they picked you to help them.”

“Brady, please. Do not make this worse. JUST GIVE THEM LILY! DO WHAT THEY WANT!!! IT HAS BEEN HOURS-HOURS!!! SINCE OUR SON WAS KIDNAPPED! PLEASE!”

“Tell us. what. we need. to. know,” Brady repeated.

“FINE!” Evelyn sneered. “You will not do it? They said they will take her dead or alive. I WILL DO IT! I will take care of our son!”

Evelyn suddenly jumped out of her chair, extended a claw, and went for my neck.

“STOP, EVELYN!” James yelled.

Evelyn froze. James had used the alpha command.

“Take your hands and place them on either side of her head,” Rose linked me.

“Why?”

“We can talk to her wolf and pull some of her memories from her,” Rose explained.

“Won’t that hurt the pup?” I asked.

“No. But we need to do it quickly so that James can lift his alpha command. The command may hurt the pup if it stays in place too long.”

I looked at everyone else. “Rose says that I need to put my hands on either side of Evelyn’s head while she is frozen. She says that it will not hurt the pup if we do it quickly.”

Dr. Hyder nodded, gesturing for me to do it.

Somewhat timidly, I approached Evelyn and did as Rose instructed. Minutes later, I was floored. I let go.

“J-James?”

“Yes, my love?”

“You have the same powers that I have, right? I want you to see what I just saw. Make sure that I am interpreting it correctly.”

James looked at Dr. Hyder, and Dr. Hyder nodded. “Do it quickly, and then we need you to lift the alpha command.”

James approached Evelyn and did the same thing that I had just done. Once it was over, he looked at me with horror and sadness in his eyes.

“Evelyn, you can move,” he said quietly. “Do not mind-link anyone until further

command," he added in his alpha voice.

Evelyn went to continue her attack on me, but Brady had already positioned himself to restrain her.

Dr. Hyder opened the door for two of the guards. He must have mind-linked them while we were talking to Evelyn's wolf and going through her memories.

"Take her to the dungeons," Dr. Hyder instructed. "Place her in one of the silver cells so that she cannot mind link anyone."

"Evelyn, the alpha order restricting you from mind-linking ends when you enter the silver cell," James said quietly.

The guards put silver handcuffs on Evelyn and escorted her away.

Once they were gone, Dr. Hyder turned to James and I.

"What is it?" Dr. Hyder asked.

"We found the missing link," James said somberly. "It was right there the whole time, and I did not see it."

"What it is?" Brady asked.

"We need to talk to Andrew," I replied. "Now."

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 232

Chapter 0232

(James POV)

"We need to talk to Andrew," Lily told the group. "Now."

After she said that, Dr. Hyder and Brady stepped to the side and began mind-linking. They were

presumably making arrangements to determine Andrew's location and bring him to the office. It

impressed me that they were willing to follow her directions first and ask questions later; it showed how

much respect and trust they had for her.

While Brady and Dr. Hyder worked on getting Andrew here, I reached for Lily and wrapped her in my

arms. For a moment, I almost forgot that anyone else was in the room.

"I am so sorry, Lily. My whole family..."

Lily gently cupped my face. "Stop. We don't know for sure. There could be other explanations."

I shook my head.

"You saw and heard it first, Lily. You came to the same conclusion that I did.

There is far too much there.

for any of it to be a coincidence.”

“Even if it’s not... even if Andrew really is behind some of this... we will deal with it okay?”

“But you have gone through so much because of my family, and now this...”

Lily put a finger on my lips to silence me. “Seriously, stop. We are in this together. If it is Andrew behind

the current threats, we have the tools now to deal with it. And you do not have to feel responsible for

you do not have to feel responsible for

anything that anyone in your family did... unless you want me to feel

responsible for the sh&t my mother

and sister pulled off, which is far worse:

“Ok, fair point. But...”

Lily gave me a look, and I could not help but smile at her.

“Let’s talk to Andrew and then go from there, okay?” she suggested.

I nodded and then leaned down to kiss her. Just after our lips met, we heard coughing behind us,

reminding us that Dr. Hyder, Brady, and Charlotte were still in the room.

Lily blushed and turned around to face them. She wrapped my arms around her so that I was hugging her

from behind. Despite the seriousness of the situation, I loved how well we fit together, and I loved that

she was willing to be affectionate even around them.

“Sorry... we got distracted for a moment,” she told them.

“What is going on?” Dr. Hyder asked.

Lily took a deep breath.

“When we put our hands on Evelyn’s head, we were able to communicate with her wolf and go through

some of Evelyn’s memories,” Lily explained.

“She has been working with Andrew?” Brady asked.

“No. At least not intentionally. We didn’t see anything concrete. It’s just... some of the conversations

that they have had indicate that Andrew knows things..

Dr. Hyder signaled for us to all sit down again. “The guards have located Andrew. They will bring him

here in 15 minutes. Why don’t you explain what you saw.”

Slowly, Lily and I began to explain the memories that we went through and what Evelyn’s wolf told us.

For her 19th birthday, Evelyn’s girlfriends took her on a two-week skiing trip to

Canada. That is when she met Andrew, completely by chance.

Andrew had walked into the ski lodge that they were staying at and saw Evelyn sitting in the large communal dining room with her friends. He immediately approached her, and his eyes were filled with wonder.

“It is you. The chosen one,” he said to her.

Evelyn did not understand what Andrew meant by those words, nor did she necessarily care. She tried to

go back to her coffee and to her conversations with her friends.

Andrew, however, would not let her go. For the next three days, he followed Evelyn almost everywhere

she went. He repeatedly told her how beautiful she was. He also told her that he believed that the Moon

Goddess wanted them to be together. She tried telling Andrew that she had a boyfriend back home, but

Andrew refused to give up.

At first, Evelyn was a little creeped out by Andrew. Although he was a good-looking male and seemed to

be a nice guy, he was coming on really strong. Even so, Evelyn appreciated the feeling of being pursued

and desired. She also appreciated that she and Andrew had a shared interest in history and philosophy,

which she knew because Andrew regularly initiated conversations with her about the gods and goddesses

*use of prophecies throughout time.

It ultimately took about a week, but Andrew eventually wore Evelyn down. By week two, the two were in

Evelyn felt guilty for cheating on Brady, but she continued the relationship with Andrew anyway. They

would meet at least once a month -sometimes twice- in various places between Black Moon and

Andrew's pack in Canada. They would also regularly text one another throughout the week.

As Evelyn's 20th birthday approached, Andrew started to muse more and more about how amazing life

would be when Evelyn marked him. Lily took special note of the fact that -in all the memories that

Evelyn's wolf, Edy, showed us- Andrew seemed far more interested in

receiving Evelyn's mark than he was in marking her himself.

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 233

Chapter 0233

Andrew had been really angry when Evelyn chose to spend her birthday at Black Moon, and they had multiple fights about her plans. During the last fight, he told her that he was only letting her get away with staying in Black Moon for her birthday because of how "special" she was.

After the rejection and after Evelyn made her way to Andrew's pack in Canada, Andrew pushed her to go through the marking process with him right away. Evelyn was still feeling confused and heartbroken, but he did not seem bothered by her conflicted feelings. Evelyn interpreted Andrew's urgency as a fervent desire to be with her and she felt honored by it. Sadly, in watching the memory reels back, Lily and I doubted that was the real reason.

In any event, Evelyn finally agreed to the marking and to accept Andrew as her chosen mate.

Despite his excitement leading up to and even during the marking, once it was done, Andrew began acting confused and disappointed with it. Evelyn also noticed that Andrew strangely spent hours looking out the window, studying the sky.

The day after Evelyn and Andrew marked each other, Alex and Edy went on a run together for the first time. (Almost all of their dates had occurred in human territory, so they were unable to run together before.)

Edy's wolf was and is a fairly majestic-looking brown and white wolf, but Andrew was visibly disappointed when he saw her. Edy heard Andrew mumble something about a missing symbol or mark, but she could not figure out what he was looking for, and Alex would not tell her.

Andrew's wolf, Alex, reached out to Edy that night. Alex apologized for Andrew's strange behavior the last couple of days. Alex explained that it was his (Alex's) fault, because he made a really big mistake and showed Andrew a couple of things that he never should have showed him. Alex refused to give Edy any details, but Edy told us that even today Alex seems to harbor a tremendous amount of regret and shame about whatever it was.

Thankfully for Evelyn, whatever it was that had disappointed Andrew, he seemed to get over it. Years passed and they settled into a routine. Theirs was not the world's happiest relationship, but it worked well enough for them.

Most importantly to Evelyn, Andrew readily accepted Sammy as his son even though a DNA test showed that he was Brady's. He also pushed Evelyn to give Sammy a sibling as soon as they could.

Unfortunately, on that front, they had no success until recently.

Everything started to change for them around October or November. Andrew suddenly began receiving phone calls about "pack business" that were "super confidential" and seemed to consume him. This

Those feelings worsened when her parents informed Evelyn that Brady had been seen getting close to a

she-wolf that he brought into the pack. (That she-wolf was, of course, Lily.)

Evelyn immediately became

jealous and irate, and she secretly hired a couple of wolves to go to Black Moon and keep tabs on what

was happening between Brady and Lily. Those wolves were Hunter and Kyle.

Then, when James called Andrew that fateful day asking for a favor, it led Evelyn to find out that Brady

had taken Lily to Hawaii. This was a trip that Hunter and Kyle had neglected to inform Evelyn of

Evelyn was incensed. She began throwing things in her kitchen, breaking every plate, dish, and other item

that she could find.

Andrew came home from work and was understandably angry at Evelyn for losing her cool over the

situation with Brady. He accused Evelyn of still loving Brady and of regretting being with him. Evelyn

adamantly denied both of those things, but in her rage, she vented to Andrew about how ridiculous it was

that Brady had started dating a she-wolf who looked just like her.

Evelyn was too worked up to pay attention to Andrew's reaction to this venting, but in the memories, Lily

and I could see it clear as day. There was an immediate change in Andrew.

He stopped trying to calm

Evelyn down, and he asked her to tell him everything that she had heard about this other she-wolf. In

addition, he stopped seeming upset by Evelyn's obvious jealousy about Brady's new relationship.

A couple of days after that, Evelyn received the first of many text messages from an unknown phone number. The texter identified himself as “Big Daddy” and said he thought they had some common enemies.

Of course, it was ultimately “Big Daddy” who offered Evelyn big money to secure Lily, who suggested the drug that Hunter and Kyle put in Lily’s chocolate, and who told Evelyn what to do and where to hide on the day of the attack on Black Moon.

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 234

Chapter 0234

(James POV)

We decided to adjust our seating arrangements before Andrew was brought in.

Charlotte and Lily were now sitting in the back corner of the office, where they could not be seen right

away. I sat in the guest chair closest to them. This would allow me to partially block them from Andrew’s view, and it would also keep Lily fairly close to me in case I began to lose my temper.

Dr. Hyder sat in the guest chair on the other side of the room, leaving Brady to sit behind the alpha desk. Dr. Hyder insisted that he was not ceding control to Brady, but rather acknowledging that there were benefits to having a large desk separating Brady and Andrew. In other words, Dr. Hyder wanted to make sure we interrogated Andrew before Brady killed him.

The center guest chair in front of the alpha desk was, of course, reserved for Andrew.

When Andrew finally arrived, he walked in as though he did not have a care in the world. He gave a

passing glance at Brady, and then greeted me with a bro-hug.

“Hey, Cousin! I did not know that you were here. I assume that is why I was asked to come up here?”

“Sit down, Andrew,” Brady said coldly.

Andrew raised his eyebrows. “Do you want to tell me why?”

“I said, sit down,” Brady repeated in his alpha tone.

Andrew smirked and sat down. “Okay, okay. No need to get your panties in a twist. If this is not about a

family reunion, I guess this is about Sammy?”

Brady growled. “Funny how that wasn’t the first thing you asked.”

Andrew smirked even more. "He's a sweet kid, but he's also resilient. As long as you cooperate with the kidnappers, everything will be fine, I am sure."

"You sound awfully jovial for someone whose stepson has been kidnapped," I pointed out.

"And you seem awfully calm for someone who is about to give up his mate," Andrew retorted.

I frowned. "You know."

"That Lily is your mate? Yeah, I figured that out. A lot too late for my liking, but I still did. I understand that Lily and Evelyn look alike. True doppelgangers, from what I have been told."

"I am not giving her up."

"Thankfully, no one expects you to. Lily will give herself up. After all, she does not want Sammy to die.

You see, Cousin, you found yourself a kind one. That is both your weakness and hers."

I studied Andrew for a few moments, half-wondering whether he had been possessed by a demon. The cousin that I had been close to was strong but quiet, always focused on doing the right thing. The cousin that I knew would not be using sarcasm or talking so jovially about his stepson's kidnap and my mate's surrender.

"You obviously know that we are on to you, Andrew," I said.

"Yes, it did not take me long to figure it out. Especially when one of my sources saw Evelyn being led to the dungeons, and then your guys stuck to me like glue after insisting that I come to your office right away."

"Why did you do it, Andrew? Are you working for someone? The Andrew that I knew would never dream of doing something like this."

Andrew scoffed. "The Andrew you knew? How well did you really know me, James? Tell me.

I shook my head in aggravation. "Do you have something to say, Andrew? Say it."

Andrew sneered. "Our mothers are sisters. We are cousins. That should have made us equals. But, nooooo0000000000. My mother was mated to a beta, while your mother had to go and get herself an alpha. And because of that very small thing, you and I were never equals. Family functions, parties, events Your family was always

treated better than mine was. Your family got the nicer rooms, the closer seats, the better invites. You always had just a little bit more money than we did. Hell, you even got served food before us.”

“That’s what this is about? You decided to go after my mate because you were served dinner second?

Not last, but second? Seriously?”

“SHE WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR MATE!!!! SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MINE!!!!”

“On what planet, Andrew? Lily was never supposed to be yours. We talked to the Moon Goddess. She was always supposed to be mine.”

“Did you now? Well, aren’t you lucky,” Andrew said sarcastically. “The problem that you have is that our Moon Goddess is a little finicky. She likes to change her mind about things. I know that first-hand, better than anyone.”

“What are you talking about, Andrew?” I said, getting more and more frustrated.

“I am talking about destiny, James. DESTINY. I am talking about the fact that I spent YEARS trying to earn

my destiny. I never stepped out of line. I obeyed my parents. I helped elders and omegas whenever they

needed something. I worked hard for my pack, very rarely missing even a day of work. And yet none of

that mattered. The Moon Goddess only cared about her precious she-wolves. To hell with how that

impacted the male wolves. To hell with how that impacted me!!!!”

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 235

Chapter 0235

I ran my hands through my hair. “Who are you working for, Andrew?” I asked, trying to get back on topic.

“Like you care.”

“WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR?” Brady said using an alpha command.

Feeling the weight of the alpha command, Andrew started laughing. “You want to try that again, Brady? Go ahead. Give it all you got.”

Brady looked at Andrew and the rest of us with confusion. He gave the command again. Andrew still did

not talk. Instead, he laughed.

“Just now figuring it out? Most alpha commands do not work on me.”

Dr. Hyder and Brady looked at Andrew in confusion. “How?”

“Oh, it was easy. I asked a friend on the werewolf council to order me to NOT OBEY any alpha commands

given to me. His order trumps your order, Andrew announced proudly.

“The council member’s order does not trump my order,” Lily said, stepping forward.

Suddenly, the confident and menacing look on Andrew’s face vanished. “You must be Lily?”

“Yes.”

He stood, smiled at her, and reached out to touch her cheek. Lily took a couple of steps backwards to prevent him from touching her. “Wow, you are beautiful. Even more so than my Evelyn. How is it that you grew up at West Mountain with my

aunt and I never met you before?”

Sadly, I knew the answer to that question. Andrew’s family did not visit our pack very often, so when they did come, my mother would keep them super busy with activities. She would also host large parties and celebrations in their honor. Pups under age 14 were generally not invited to the kinds of activities and functions that she planned. And after Lily turned 14, she was not allowed to attend very many functions at

all, much less ones hosted for Andrew’s family.

“Answer Brady’s question,” Lily commanded.

“I work for no one but myself,” Andrew responded stiffly.

Andrew’s face went from awe-struck to annoyed.

“Do that again, Lily, and there will be consequences,” Andrew warned her.

“Do you really think you can threaten her?” I asked him.

the

“Oh, I am not threatening her. I am promising her.”

“They can just alpha-order you, M oron,” Brady reminded him. “The j ig is up.

Make this easy on yourself

and tell us what we want to know.”

Andrew laughed. “Do you really think I am that stupid? I have read the prophecy a million times. It was

supposed to be my prophecy!!! Of course I know that they can alpha-order me. Which is why I came in

here with insurance.”

Brady visibly hesitated. “What do you mean by insurance?”

Andrew smiled. “I messaged my guys... you know... the ones holding

Sammy. I gave them strict

instructions that they are to kill Sammy unless they are able to confirm that I have been released on my

own within 40 minutes,” he said proudly. “Looking at the clock, it seems that you have about eight minutes left.”

“YOU A&&HOLE!” Brady said, practically jumping over the desk. “YOU ARE HIS STEPFATHER. HOW COULD YOU TREAT HIS LIFE SO CAVALIERLY?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!”

Andrew rolled his eyes. “Whatever. Ready to let me go? I will take this beauty with me. Dead or alive, it does not matter.”

I growled, ready to punch him. Lily put her hand on my arm.

“Call your guys,” Dr. Hyder said.

“It will not work, Doctor. My directions were very clear, and my team tends to listen. Unless they are able to confirm that I have been released, Sammy dies. I suppose Lily or James can alpha order me to walk outside and come back, but my guys have been trained on how to spot someone under the influence of an alpha order, so that probably will not work either.”

“James, would you like to do the honors?” Dr. Hyder asked.

“CALL YOUR MEN. NOW,” I ordered Andrew.

Andrew pulled his cell phone out of his pocket and dialed a number.

Suddenly, we heard a phone ringing. It was coming from Brady’s desk. Dr.

Hyder went around the desk

and opened a drawer. He pulled out a ringing cell phone and answered it.

“Hello?”

Andrew paled.

“Yeah, nice try, Andrew. It seems we were one step ahead of you,” Dr. Hyder said menacingly. “Your men have been in our custody since shortly after the kidnapping.”

“Sit down and do not move,” I commanded.

Andrew sat.

“Darling, do you mind if I go first this time?”

Lily shook her head. “No, please. I do not want to go at all. You go ahead.”

I gave her a quick kiss and then went over to Andrew, putting my hands on either side of his head.

Holy sh&t I was not prepared for what I saw. Note to self: if I ever do that again, I need to have a drink first.

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 236

Chapter 0236

(James POV)

I took a step back from Andrew.

"It did not have to turn out this way," I told him sadly.

Andrew glared at me.

"You spent years pretending to be something that you weren't," I continued.

"You acted like a loving, devoted husband and father. You acted like someone who really cared about others."

"I did what I was supposed to do," Andrew replied coldly.

"No, what you were supposed to do was actually BE the male that you were pretending to be. Imagine how different your life could have been if only you had tried.... if only you ACTUALLY cared about someone other than yourself."

"Would it have gotten me any further?" he asked bitterly.

T

"I don't know. I would like to think so. But I do know this: if you made different choices, you would be going home to your mate and family tonight. Instead, you will likely spend the rest of your life in the dungeons."

"My choices were taken away from me the moment that the Moon Goddess decided to punish Stephanie.

The Moon Goddess didn't Stephanie and ven care how her punishment impacted me. She just punished Ignored me," Andrew said angrily. "Now my own cousin is turning his back. I hope you have thought about how our mothers are going to react when they find out what you have done." I ran my hands down my face.

|

"I will deal with our mothers. I have a lot to talk to mine about anyway."

|

"So that's it? You are going to just lock me up and walk away? Treat me as though I am nothing?"

"WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?" I roared in frustration. "YOU OFFERED WOLVES HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO KIDNAP MY MATE SO THAT YOU COULD STEAL HER FROM ME! YOU TRIED

TO HAVE HER DRUGGED! AND EVEN AFTER YOU DISCOVERED THAT HER MATE WAS ME, YOU HAD YOUR OWN STEPSON KIDNAPPED SO THAT YOU COULD ARRANGE FOR LILY TO BE KILLED!!”

Lily stepped forward and put one hand on my arm and the other on my chest. I pulled her closer to me and kissed her temple.

“Oh, give me a F&&ING break, James! You would have done the same thing if you were in my shoes and you know it.”

“NO!” I yelled. “I would have been happy for you. I would have congratulated you. I would have thanked the Goddess that you were the one having to take on the responsibility and not me. AND I SURE AS HELL WOULD NOT HAVE LET YOU SPEND SIX YEARS MOURNING THE DEATH OF SOMEONE THAT I ALWAYS KNEW WAS NOT YOUR MATE|||||”

You are such a liar, James. I knew Big Daddy should have had Lily killed in Ravenswood instead of trying to abduct her first. If he had, we would be in a very different position right now.”

“Forgive me, Lily,” I said via mind-link. I removed my arm from around her body and punched Andrew directly in the gut. Twice.

The punches successfully knocked the wind out of him, but after about thirty seconds he was spewing nonsense again.

“Feel better, James? I hope you know that I will be telling our mothers about everything that you have done to me today.”

“Do you really think they will care? That they will defend you?”

“You think they won’t?” he asked smugly.

I sighed. Sadly, with our family, Andrew could be right. trial. I

“Fine. Have it your way. Tell them whatever the f&&k you want, but you will have to wait until your trial. I am sure that Dr. Hyder and Alpha Brady will agree with me that you should not be allowed visitors or communication in or out until then.”

“You have no basis to restrict my communications with the outside world. It is

inhumane.”

“Oh, you are wrong, Big Daddy. I have every basis in the world.”

I turned to Dr. Hyder. “Can your guards take him to the dungeons now? I got everything we needed from him ”

Only moments later, guards came into the office and escorted Andrew out. As they did so, I quickly jotted

down the names of the guards and other traitors that Andrew had been working with. I handed the list to

Dr. Hyder. His eyes got a little wider when he recognized some of the names. After Andrew was escorted out of the office, and after Dr. Hyder and Brady made arrangements to secure

the other traitors, Lily turned to me.

“What did you see?” she asked.

“Why don’t you sit down, Lily.”

“Was it that bad?”

I frowned. “Sit down, okay, sweetheart? I will tell you everything.”

“You are scaring me, James. Does this have to do with Stephanie?”

“Yes, in part. Stephanie is Andrew’s fated mate.”

“What?!?! How does he know that? Does she know that?”

“Please, Lily, sit.”

It took some more prompting, but finally, she did. I kneeled in front of her and took her hand. I knew what

I had to tell her was not going to be easy for her to hear.

“Alex described how they found out about Stephanie being their mate, and why Andrew became obsessed with Evelyn and then you. From the way that Alex described everything, Luke and I are pretty sure they discovered that Stephanie was Andrew’s mate because of the wrinkle or wave that the Moon Goddess created when she started making changes.

Then, a later wrinkle allowed Alex-but somehow not Andrew- to find out that the Moon Goddess had selected Stephanie’s sister as the new chosen one.

Alex also received a visual of what you looked like. Alex shared the details about you with Andrew on the day that they saw Evelyn at the ski lodge, and he

has regretted it ever since.”

“Wait... back up... what do you mean by the Moon Goddess making changes?” Dr. Hyder asked.

I turned to him, realizing that we had not told Dr. Hyder about that part of our meeting with the Moont Goddess. “It is a long story, but basically the Moon Goddess originally planned for Stephanie to be the

chosen one. She changed her mind when Stephanie started to make some of the choices that she made. But changing things lead to consequences, and one of those consequences was apparently Andrew finding out much more than he was supposed to know.”

“I am confused. If Alex told Andrew that the new chosen one was Stephanie’s sister, then he knew that the chosen one was me. But Evelyn made it sound like Andrew got her and I confused.”

I squeezed Lily’s hand. This was going to be the hard part.

*Andrew confused you and Evelyn because Stephanie has two sisters.”

Lily jumped up. “What... what are you saying, James?”

“Evelyn is your half-sister,” I said softly.

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 237

Chapter 0237

(James POV)

“Evelyn is your half-sister,” I said softly.

Lily stared at me silently for what felt like forever.... and then she sat down in the chair again... and started laughing.

“I did not know that I could laugh so hard at a time like this. Thank you, James.”

“Lily?”

“That was a really good joke. I almost believed you.”

“Lily, my love, I am not joking,” I said seriously.

Lily rolled her eyes. “Of course, you are. Evelyn and I look a lot alike. I look just like my mother. There is no

way

that

my mother had another pup and did not tell us. She worshipped Stephanie largely because she

was having so much trouble having a pup back then.”

!

I took both of Lily’s hands in my own. “Sweetheart, you do look a lot like Margie. I agree with you on that.

But you also look a lot like your dad, too.”

Lily stopped laughing.

“You aren’t seriously suggesting what I think that you are suggesting, are you?”

I frowned. “I am so sorry, Lily. I know this is hard to hear.”

“James, I love you and I trust you... but seriously. This isn’t funny. You must have misinterpreted what you saw.”

“I don’t think that I did.”

“Okay, well then maybe Andrew just assumed that Evelyn and I were sisters because we are doppelgangers.”

“Haven’t you wondered why you and Evelyn look so much alike?”

“No. Doppelgangers are a thing. You do not have to be related to someone to look like them.”

“Lily”

She turned and looked at Brady and Dr. Hyder. “Dr. Hyder, Brady... back me up here. Evelyn grew up in your pack. Brady dated her for years. You would have known if she was my sister, and you would have told

Dr. Hyder came closer, knelt on the other side of Lily, and put his hand on her shoulder in a comforting way.

“Evelyn and her parents did not move to Black Moon until she was eight years old. They moved here from Andrew’s pack. Evelyn’s birth certificate listed her parents as her parents and I did not question it further.”

Lily smiled and looked at me triumphantly. “See? Evelyn is not my

“I think she is,” Dr. Hyder interjected.

“WHAT?!?!?”

sister.”

“I am sorry, Lily. I know how hard it is for you to accept this. Even after everything that you have learned and everything that has come to light, I know you have continued to adore him and put him on a pedestal,” I said softly.

I watched Lily’s face. She was continuing to struggle to come to terms with this latest revelation.

“So what are you saying? That my mother didn’t really miscarry Tyler? That she somehow secretly carried that pregnancy to term and gave birth to a girl?” I took a deep breath.

“No, Sweetheart. I am saying that your father cheated on your mother, and that Evelyn was born as a result of that affair.”

Lily jumped out of her chair. “No, he would never do that. My father loved me. He would never cheat on her.”

“Sheila claims that she slept with your father too.”

He still loves her.

“Sheila claimed a lot of things! She also said she slept with you and we both know that never happened.

That it could not have happened!!!!”

Charlotte stood up and approached Lily. “Lil’, maybe it is true. I mean, it would make sense.”

Lily turned to Charlotte with tears in her eyes. “No Char, it would not make any sense at all! How could my father not only cheat on my mother, but also hide a secret pup from her and his family for almost three decades?!?!?”

“I don’t think he knew,” I explained. “Andrew only knew because he heard his dad talking about it with his alpha one day. Evelyn’s mother fell pregnant with Evelyn three years before she met who Evelyn believes to be her father. It had been sort-of an open secret in the pack that Evelyn’s mother hooked up with Beta Robert. When she fell pregnant, the alpha confronted her mother about the rumors and she confessed to

he prohibited him from ever coming back to their pack. The day that Andrew heard the alpha talking to his father, the alpha was debating whether to lift the ban now that so many years had passed and Evelyn’s mother had moved away.”

“It still does not explain why Evelyn and I look so much alike. I get my hair and eye color from my mother.”

“Several years ago, your father and I were having drinks with several other buddies,” Dr. Hyder said slowly. “During the conversation, the topic of cheating came up. Your father made a rather interesting observation. I did not think too much of it at the time, but it somehow always stuck with me.”

“What was it?” Lily asked hesitantly.

“He said that you can tell a lot about the reason that a male cheats based on what his mistress looks like. If his marriage is troubled, he will look for someone who looks nothing like his wife. She will be younger, have a different body type, have different coloring.

to prove

On the other hand, if his mistress looks like his wife, the cheating was for a very different reason. Maybe

prove. the male was drunk, maybe he was desperate for an heir, or maybe he felt like he had something to Whatever the reason was, if he gravitates towards someone who looks like his wife, it means that in his mind, his wife is still the ideal female.”

Lily wiped a few tears off of her cheeks. “What are you saying?”

“Evelyn’s mother has the same hair and eye color as your mom.”

I could feel Lily's heart breaking. She stared back and forth between me, Dr. Hyder, and Charlotte. Then she ran out of the office.

I followed after her. She got all the way to her old bedroom before she turned and collapsed against the door, I sat down beside her and wrapped her in my arms. She cried against my chest, letting it all out.

"My life is a f&&ing telenovela," she whimpered.

1

I laughed. "I know. Mine feels like one too right now. But remember what you told me earlier. Our families do not define who we are. Your future is with me, and mine is with you, and I promise we are not going to live the crazy way our parents did. Our story will not be a telenovela; it will be H&&mark."

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 238

Chapter 0238

(Brady POV)

It has now been three full days since Charlotte, Lily, James, and I returned to Black Moon. A lot has happened during that short period of time.

For example, there have been several planning meetings with our allies to discuss the takeover of West Mountain Pack, the takeover of the werewolf council, and the various trials that will need to be held. As the Goddess-chosen leader of the werewolf council, Lily technically does not need input from us or our allies on most of these decisions. However, Lily has been adamant from the beginning that she wants as much buy-in from the broader werewolf community as she can get. She says that getting the buy-in will help rebuild the council's reputation, will help ensure that future problems are brought to the council's attention, and will help foster future peace.

In addition to the planning meetings, my father has been working with Lily and James several hours a day to help them understand, develop, and practice their new powers. (Or at least the powers that they cant practice. Obviously, Lily is not going to "practice" freeing someone's wolf.) Lily originally struggled with the alpha command, which meant that she needed extra time to practice it. They figured out that she was unconsciously holding back out of fear of hurting someone with it and out of fear of the power itself. To help her move past that issue, they decided to use yours truly as the "test dummy." The thinking was that -being young and an alpha- no matter how much force she used, Lily could not hurt me unless she really, really, really wanted to.

You can imagine how much appreciated having to sit for hours on end while James and Lily practiced. ordering me to do goddess-whatever occurred to them. (Hint: not at all.) Even then, it might have been okay, but Charlotte quickly decided to take advantage of the situation by suggesting that Lily and James

to order me to do ridiculous and embarrassing things like meowing like a cat and doing the chicken dance.

Charlotte said that her suggestions were simply about making Sammy laugh. (Sammy and my mother

returned to Black Moon fairly late on the night that we confronted Evelyn and Andrew.) I am sure that

making Sammie laugh was part of it, and it is the only reason that I did not murder James despite how

much fun he seemed to be having at my expense. At the same time, I also know that an equally

important part of Charlotte's suggestions was teaching me a lesson.

And what was that lesson? That Charlotte will not put up

with my bullsh&t.

You already know the events that led up to Charlotte slapping me. What you do not know is that I made

things worse later that night. How? Well, I sort-of insisted that James and Lily stay in separate bedrooms while at Black Moon because they are not yet married. Everyone was shocked by my demand, including

To be fair, I had not really expected them to stay in separate rooms; I was just still feeling a little bitter

and I wanted to be an a&&hole.

Unfortunately, being an a&&hole cost me. Not only did my father overrule me on the separate bedrooms. thing, but also Charlotte reacted by insisting that the separate bedrooms rule apply to us as well.

I tried to apologize to Charlotte and explain that I was just trying to take a dig at James, but she could not be convinced to change her mind. If anything - thanks to Charlotte being fiercely protective of Lily-my explanation only made things worse.

So much worse, in fact, that Charlotte actually said this to me in front of my father. "I have realized that you are right, Brady. It is important to honor the conservative values of your pack. From now on, out of respect for Black Moon's family values, I will remain celibate until I either leave Black Moon or I am married."

That single comment had my father ready to start planning my wedding... not because he wanted me to get laid, but because that was how much he loved the way that Charlotte handled me. Unfortunately, Kalen was not so amused; I think he seriously would have killed me if he could have.

Indeed, Kalen was (and is) just as stubborn as Charlotte. He absolutely refused to shut up and let me sleep unless he was close to her. As a result, for the next three nights, I ended up having to sleep on the floor outside Charlotte's room. Thankfully, my mother-despite being just as amused by the situation as my father- brought me a pillow and blanket the first night, and I have remembered to grab those myself the last couple of nights.

Speaking of my mother, she also adores Charlotte. It seriously took all of fifteen minutes for her to fall in love with her. Charlotte's ability to keep me on my toes certainly helped, but it was Charlotte's reaction to meeting Sammy that really pulled on my mother's heart strings... and mine too, if I am being completely honest.

Backing up, I had been worried about how to explain everything to Sammy about his mom and Andrew. I was also unsure how I should explain who Charlotte was. But, when Sammy and my mom returned from Red River, the problem solved itself. Sammy by passed me and ran immediately to Charlotte and gave her a huge hug. Charlotte embraced Sammy immediately; it was almost as though he was already her son. Sammy's move shocked all of us until he explained. Apparently, the Moon Goddess came to him shortly before he was kidnapped. She told him that bad wolves were about to come for him, but she did not want him to be scared because he would be quickly rescued. She also told him that she had given his daddy (in other words, me) a very special gift. She wanted Sammy to know that the gift was not just for me, but also for him too, because his mommy and Andrew might not be around as much as they used to be due to some very bad mistakes that they made.

Sammy knew right away that Charlotte was the gift that the Moon Goddess was referring to, and his story confirmed what I think all of us had already

figured out: Charlotte and I were second chance mates. The only problem was that Charlotte's wolf had not woken up yet. "She will wake up when you are ready for her," Kalen told me. "I can feel her wolf on the surface, but you are not ready for her yet."

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 239

Chapter 0239

(Brady POV)

My parents, James and Lily, Charlotte, and I were all sitting in the alpha office talking about last minute

details relating to the takeover of the council, the takeover of the werewolf council, and the related trials.

The allies had all already gone back to their packs to ready their teams. We did not think that we would

need any of them, but as before, we wanted to be prepared for all possibilities.

With respect to the trials, we knew that we would need to have the trials held as soon as possible. Doing

so was important, because it would not only ensure swift justice, but it would also (hopefully) allow

everyone to move on and focus on the future once they were done.

The primary question that we had left to decide-or rather, that Lily had left to decide-was how to

conduct the trials at each pack. The decision had already been made that Evelyn, Andrew, and the Black

Moon traitors should be tried separately from everyone at West Mountain, but we had gone back and

forth on whether there should be one trial or multiple trials at each pack.

The allies had given their opinions, but those opinions were essentially that the decision depended on what was best for each pack. As long as there were

trials, and as long as the trials were public, they did

not care. In other words, they basically said, "you decide."

There were a number of factors weighing in favor of both options. A single trial at each pack would be cheaper and faster, and it would allow observers to see all of the evidence all at the same time. On the other hand, each individual's involvement was different, as was the nature of the crimes committed.

That weighed in favor of separate trials for everyone. In addition, doing a combined trial would allow each offender to share the negative spotlight with

the others, instead of having to deal with the pressure of being alone and accountable for his or her own actions.

Ultimately, after we hashed it out again and again and again, Lily decided that each individual should be tried and judged on his or her own merits. It would be expensive and time-consuming, but in her view, it would be the fairest way to proceed.

Lily's decision led to another question, this one voiced by Charlotte:

"So... if we are doing

doing separate trials... who gets to be the one to tell Evelyn that Andrew marked her by mistake, thinking that she was Lily?"

Lily shook her head. "Andrew did not mark her by mistake. He just thought that she had powers that she did not have."

James squeezed Lily's hand. "You know, sweetheart, I know it had to have absolutely sucked for you to shift for the first time by yourself, but I keep wondering what might have happened if anyone else had

Lily smiled sadly. "I would like to think so. But it did turn out to be a huge blessing that I was alone, and

that no one else knew that I had a wolf. I think the rumors that I was wolfless strangely protected me."

"You were not alone. At least, not completely," my father said.

Lily looked at my father in surprise. "What?"

I

"I am a doctor, and I was well aware that it was your 14th birthday. That was why I originally came to the

I

pack that day. During the funeral, I saw the obvious signs that you were about to shift, so I followed you to the waterfall.

I stayed back because I did not want to scare you, but I also did not want you to be alone. I also wanted to be nearby in case there were any problems. I quietly prayed to the Moon Goddess on your behalf. I was close enough to see that you had special coloring just like Brady, but not close enough to see the symbol on your rump."

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 240

Chapter 0240

"So that means that—"

"Yes. I always knew that you were special; I just did not know that you were

the chosen one. I did not know that many years later, when Jessica told me.”

Lily got up and went over to my father. She gave him a huge hug. “Thank you.”

“Was that why you accepted her into your medical program?” James asked.

“No. I accepted her into the program because she more than earned her spot.

I would still like to see her finish the program in the future.”

“I would like to see that too,” James confirmed, sharing a knowing look with Lily.

“Getting Lily away from you and the rest of your pack was just icing on the cake,” my father added.

No one said anything else for a few moments.

Then, finally, Charlotte spoke up again. “So..... going back to Evelyn and Andrew...” she said hesitantly.

I rubbed my neck. I was about to say something that I knew could get me in more trouble with Charlotte

and everyone else in the room, but I felt like I needed to say it anyway.

“I have been thinking about this a lot the last few days. Evelyn made a lot of mistakes. And the reality is

that she will probably spend most of her remaining life behind bars. But, she is still pregnant, she is still Sammy’s mother, and she is still my first love who I made a ton of mistakes with.”

“What are you saying, Son?” my father asked, clearly worried about where I was going.

“I would like to do what we can to avoid Evelyn finding out that Andrew was never really in love with her.

I know that we can’t guarantee that she will never find out, but I think we should take steps to avoid it if we can.”

“Why?” James asked.

“Because she deserves to have a memory of what it was like to be loved and appreciated. I did not give

that to her, and Andrew did. Even if it was for the wrong reasons, he gave her something I didn’t. I do not want to take that away.”

“After all she tried to do to Lily, I don’t think she deserves anything. Who cares about her feelings,” James said angrily.

“I think Brady is right,” Lily said softly.

James turned to her in shock. "What?!?!?"

Lily got up and sat in James' lap and looked him seriously in the eyes. "Please do not get upset when

say what I am about to say, okay?"

James gave her a questioning look.

"Promise me?"

James continued to give her the same look.

"James?"

"Fine."

"I still remember how it felt when you kissed me for the very first time. And I also remember how crushed

I was when I found out that you thought you were kissing Stephanie not me.

Evelyn has made a lot of mistakes, and she will be punished for them. But I

would not wish the feeling that I had that day on

anyone, even her."

I missed what James said in response, because I was suddenly distracted by a strong and powerful smell

of oranges and vanilla.

"What is happening?" I asked Kalen, although I thought I already knew.

"You let go of Evelyn," Kalen said happily. "And Charlotte's wolf is back. Go to our mate."

I stood and turned to Charlotte. She also stood up, and she had a smile on her face. I picked her up and

whirled her around.

"My mate," I whispered.

"My mate," she smiled back.

It felt strangely different from how it felt when I discovered that Evelyn was my mate. My heart felt

complete, and I felt like the missing part of my soul had finally been found. I

hugged Charlotte tighter and

tighter until she complained that she could not breathe. Then put her down,

kissed her softly on her lips,

and hugged her again.

"Does this mean that I can sleep with you tonight?" I whispered in her ear.

"Not a chance," she responded with a smile