

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 253

Chapter 0253

(Margie POV)

Almost as soon as I told Stephanie not to worry, guards secured silver cuffs to the wrists of everyone sitting in the box. To my horror, that included me. The cuffs were covered in fabric, so they did not burn my skin, but they did prevent my ability to further mind-link.

In my head, I knew that I had carefully planned for all contingencies... but my gut told me that something was very, very wrong.

Tonight was supposed to be about celebration. Stephanie and James would finally be reunited;

Stephanie would formally be announced as the future luna of our pack; and the official investigation into Stephanie and Sheila's actions would be declared closed.

Just as importantly, tonight would be another very public demonstration of my power and influence. Slowly

over time, pack members and our allies had come to understand who held the real control in this

pack. With the council finally prepared to not only give Stephanie and Sheila a slap on the wrist, but also fully exonerate them and with the crowning of Stephanie as the official future luna— there would be no doubt left: I am the one in charge.

I liked it that way. It made me feel safe, secure, and important.

Indeed, had everything gone according to my plans, no one not even Robert's parents- would ever

again be able to say that I was a nobody or that I was unworthy of being Robert's mate. z

However, soon after I walked into the ballroom, I knew something was wrong.

And that "something"

started with my long-lost daughter Lily.

She was supposed to be dead. DEAD. I had paid big money to ensure it.

But no, she was here. On Stephanie's and my special night. And not only was Lily here, but also she

seemed happy. She was practically glowing. And wolves seemed to be falling over themselves to talk to

her.

It did not make any sense to me. The whole pack hated Lily when she left, but now they like her? Sure,

she did not kill Stephanie as we all thought, but she was still weak, worthless,

and boring. Why are they flocking to her now?

I mind-linked Stephanie to hurry up and get down to the party. I figured that if the guest of honor arrived, people would be less interested in talking to Lily. Unfortunately, Stephanie said that she was having a wardrobe issue and needed a few more minutes. That meant that I was on my own to confront my bitch of a daughter.

Fine.

I quickly stormed over to where Lily was. My plan was to drag her out of the ballroom and teach her a lesson. Without a wolf, there was very little she could do to fight me off. I could then hand her off to one of my employees to finish her.

Unfortunately, before I could get within twenty feet of Lily, several strong hands grabbed me and forcibly took me to one of the security rooms. These rooms were equipped with cameras, speakers, and video screens that allowed occupants to see and hear what was going on in the ballroom, but occupants could not be seen or heard. They also could not mind-link... just like the situation that I was in right now.

I was raging in anger, demanding that the guards release me. Instead of listening to me, they walked out of the room and locked the door.

As if that was not bad enough, the cameras soon thereafter zeroed in on the interaction between Stephanie and Lily... and then the interaction between Stephanie, Lily, and James. I had to watch the whole thing without being able to do anything about it. I was so angry that I that I started crying. How could James and Lily be so callous towards Stephanie?!?! Did she not deserve better?!? I began to kick and punch anything that I could.

I could not wait to be released from that room so that I could enact my revenge. More specifically, I could not wait until I was released and able to kill the bitch that I should have aborted before she turned my life and her sister's life- upside down.

It is funny how quickly one's indifference towards their offspring can turn into absolute hatred, isn't it? To think I once thought I sort-of loved that child.

In any event, nothing -and I do mean nothing-prepared me for what happened after I was finally

allowed out of the security room and escorted to the ballroom stage.

"What is the meaning of all of this?" one of the council members, Ray Brown, asked.

“Councilmember Brown and other members of the council, this is an urgent meeting and call for action. I apologize for not giving all of you more notice,” Lily said with strength and confidence in her voice, “but I am sure you will understand by the end why notice was not given.”

“Special meetings of the werewolf council may only be called by members of the council, or by at least three area regional alphas. You, young lady, are neither.”

“Actually...”

Suddenly, three alphas stepped forward: Alpha Brett from Red River; Alpha Brady from Black Moon; and

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“We join future luna Lily’s request for an immediate and special council meeting.” Alpha Brett announced,

“On what grounds?” Councilmember Steven Herman demanded.

“We have two grounds to demand a meeting, Member Herman,” Alpha Aaron responded. “The first is that we have discovered evidence that very serious werewolf crimes have been occurring within West. Mountain Pack for years. We demand that the council immediately intervene and remove Alpha Randall from his position and replace him with his son.”

I heard a few gasps from the ballroom, but I let out a sigh of relief. Now I knew that everything was going to be okay. Thank Goddess that I had figured out a way to get to Neil last night,

“We have already completed our investigation of West Mountain Pack, alphas,” Councilmember Herman said. “We have been here investigating for weeks. We were going to announce the results of our investigation tonight. We have concluded that there was no wrongdoing by anyone but Jenny Brogan. The pack has been managed impeccably.”

I sat back in my seat and smiled proudly. This was what money, influence, and a healthy amount of blackmail can buy you.

“We would like a public council poll,” James said calmly.

I

I rolled my eyes. James was stubborn as always. Oh, well. It gave me more time to enjoy him being put in his place, and more time to think about how I would fix the situation between him and Stephanie.

“A what?”

“We would like each councilmember to publicly vote on the closure of the

investigation of the West Mountain Pack,” James clarified.

“Only a member of the council can request such a poll,” Councilmember Merrill replied.

“Then I request a poll,” Lily replied.

I started laughing. I could not help it. Everyone turned to look at me.

“Do you have something to say, Margie?” James asked.

I thought for a second about what I would say, and then I decided there was no harm in just saying the truth. The council would back me up regardless.

“I just find it funny that my former daughter is on this stage acting as though she has a right to be here.

James growled. “You have no idea what you are talking about, Margie. She is my mate and the soon-to-be luna of this pack. I encourage you to take back your words before there are consequences.”

“I will not,” I responded defiantly. “She is everything that I said and more. You yourself know it. That is why you publicly rejected her all those months ago.”

Stephanie turned to me with wide-eyes. “Wait a second...

Stephanie seemed like she was getting upset. I looked at her in confusion. I could see that her mind was running a million miles a minute, but I did not understand what triggered her.

“Wait...” she continued. “You just said that James publicly rejected Lily months ago. You can only reject someone you are mated to.... So does that mean that you have known FOR MONTHS that James was mated to Lily? AND YOU NEVER TOLD ME?”

Oh, my Goddess. James was right! How could you let me embarrass myself like this, when YOU KNEW the whole time that she was his mate and not me?!?!”

Sh&t. I had intended for Stephanie to never find out about that. 1

I put my hand gently on her arm.

“Stephanie, my dear, relax. The Moon Goddess made a mistake is all. You were always intended to be James’ mate. I did not tell you about the mistake because it did not make a difference. James rejected Lily as soon as the bond was discovered. You and James are still mates, you are just second chance mates.”

“Then who was my first chance mate?” Stephanie asked me angrily.

“Of course, I do not know the answer to that, my dear. Only you would know that.”

“I have been living with humans for the past six years. I have not met my first chance mate.”

I sighed.

“Forget it, Stephanie. We will talk about this later. Let us deal with the situation at hand first, okay?”

“NO! I want to talk about this NOW! You lied to me!!! What else have you lied to me about?!?!?”

“Later, dear.”

“NO! NOW!”

“STOP ACTING LIKE A SPOILED BRAT! I SAID WE WILL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER!!!” I yelled at her

Stephanie recoiled as though I had just slapped her. This was the first time I had ever talked to her this way before.

I took a deep breath and tried to calm my rising nerves. “I am sorry for raising my voice with you,

Stephanie, but seriously let us deal with this in the privacy of our own home, later, okay?”

“You will not be going home,” Lily said matter-of-factly. “Or at least not to the home you are used to. You will have a new home in the dungeons.”

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Chapter 0255

(Margie POV)

“You will not be going home,” Lily said matter-of-factly. “Or at least not to the home that you are used to. You will have a new home in the dungeons.”

I looked at the council and then Randall in complete annoyance.

“Seriously, can someone please get Lily off of this stage? I cannot deal with both of my daughters at the same time. Lily is just embarrassing herself. She has no right to be up here.”

“I have every right in the world, Mother,” she responded coldly.

“Why? Because you f&&ked James?” I sneered. “Congratulations. You know how to spread your legs. If that was seriously all it took to have a say in the running of the pack and werewolf council, half the she-wolves in our pack should be on stage too.”

James growled.

At the same time, Stephanie’s eyes widened again. “You told me it was just Sheila that James slept with????”

Oh, for Pete’s sake. This is what Stephanie is worried about right now? For the first time ever, I am starting to get annoyed with my oldest daughter.

“As if you are a virgin, Stephanie. How many males have you been with? Probably more than even Sheila. He is an alpha wolf. He has needs. Of course, he slept with others,” I fired back.

“But you LIED TO ME. Why would you lie to me?” Stephanie asked.

“Because I was trying to protect you, okay?” I explained. That is why.”

“Protect me by lying to me?”

“No, by making sure that you knew that James never forgot you. That he loved you.”

“But he is a man-whore! He became a man-whore while I was gone and you didn’t tell me?!?!?”

“You were a slut BEFORE you left. Why does it matter what he did after?!?!

Can we please focus on what

matters here? I believe the council was just informing us that

“Who else have you been with, James?” Stephanie asked accusingly, as she cut me off and turned to

him. “Have you really f&cked half the pack?”

James rolled his eyes and ran his hands through his hair in obvious annoyance. For once, I agreed with his sentiment. I could not believe this is what we were talking about in front of everyone. We had been moments away from having the council formally exonerate Stephanie, Sheila, and pack leadership, and Stephanie wanted to talk about James’ sexual history. I was starting to wonder if the six years Stephanie spent with humans had caused her mental health problems. Clearly, James was starting to wonder that too. Maybe that is why he chose Lily over her.

To my surprise, despite the setting and his own annoyance with the topic, James answered Stephanie’s question anyway.

“I already told you, Stephanie. You are not my mate. You never were and you never will be. And my sexual history is no one’s business but Lily’s. However, let’s make one thing clear anyway: the only she-wolf that I have ever been intimate with is Lily. Just her; no one else. She is all that I want, and she is all that I will ever want. Despite what I may have said in anger in the past, I have always honored the mate bond.”

Stephanie studied James’ face. She then looked back and forth between me and Sheila.

“Oh my

Goddess. James is telling the truth. He would not even f&ck me when I begged him to before I

left. Who is the real father of your pup, Sheila? Whose pup were you trying to

trick into raising for you?!?!?"

Sheila looked down. "I have already told you. James is the father."

Suddenly, something clicked in my head. Stephanie was right. Sheila has been playing me this whole time. Why did I not see it before? And why would she lie?

"Go ahead and tell everyone, Sheila. I would like to know too," I said in a half-shocked, half-angry voice.

Sheila said nothing. Whatever secret she was keeping, my gut said it was bad.

"Who is the father, Sheila?" I asked in a stronger voice.

Robert reached over and grabbed my hand. "Margie, why don't we talk about all of this later? We need to get this meeting finished so that we can all get out of here."

Randall should not have said anything. He never said anything when I was talking to Stephanie and Sheila. I knew there was a reason he said something just now. Slowly, the pieces began to fit together in my head. My heart started racing violently in my chest.

"Randall, alpha-order Sheila to answer the question," I demanded.

"NO!!! That will hurt my pup!" Sheila protested.

"If you want your pup to be kept safe, tell me who the father is!" I yelled at her.

"I already told you. It is James!"

"Randall, ORDER SHEILA TO DISCLOSE THE NAME OF THE FATHER."

"Margie, I—"

"DO IT NOW OR I WILL TELL THE COUNCIL WHAT JANE DID!!!"

I heard Jane gasp behind me. I saw puzzled looks coming from the council members. I did not care. I did not mean to slip that threat out, but the puzzle pieces were fitting together and I hated the picture I was seeing. I was desperate for someone to tell me I was wrong.

"DO IT NOW RANDALL!"

"I cannot give an alpha order while this silver is on my wrist, Margie."

Randall's statement should have been the end of the conversation, but it was not... because at the exact same time Randall spoke, Robert did too. And Robert's statement was the one that crushed my soul.

"I am the pup's father." +

Gasps filled the ballroom. Mine was one of them. I think the only two wolves who did not gasp in surprise were Robert and Sheila,

What the f&&k.

I knew that Robert cheated on me. I felt it, several times the last time that it

happened. But I never asked

I

Robert who he cheated with, and I told myself that it was just some meaningless prostitute or whore.

But no, it was SHEILA? Our daughter's best friend? And after he slept with her, he let her continue to

spend time in our home? He let me pamper her? He let her get away with blaming the pup on Stephanie's

mate? He was willing to force James to marry her, thereby making her Luna?

Those actions felt like even more than a betrayal than the sex itself.

Was he also going to let the pup be raised as James' heir? Did he think that

Sheila's pups were worthy of being alpha heirs but mine were not? Did he

think that Sheila was better than me? Does he let me keep Sheila around

because he loved Sheila? Does he still love her?

All the emotions in me were quickly exploding inside me. I needed to get it

out. I did not know who to kill first: Sheila or Robert. I decided to launch myself at Sheila.

Robert quickly tried to pull me off of her. He was defending Sheila from me! I turned and began punching him as hard as I could.

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I would kill someone tonight. Now I was even more determined than before.

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(James POV)

We knew that there was a possibility that Margie and Sheila would turn on one another before the evening was over, but none of us expected it would happen like this or so quickly.

Thankfully, though, we were (mostly) prepared.

I gave an alpha-order commanding that Margie freeze. Dr. Hyder then stepped forward and gave her an injection of a medication that would instantly relax but not sedate her. She was then led to a separate, smaller seating box that guards brought out. We also had a full set of cuffs placed on her, as opposed to the single wrist cuff that she and others had been wearing before.

Meanwhile, Dr. Miller came over to make sure that Sheila, her pup, and Beta Robert did not sustain any serious injuries. (Even though we acted quickly, the shock of finding out that Sheila was pregnant with Beta Robert's pup prevented Lily and I from immediately giving the alpha order, and Margie was able to get a few blows in on both of them.)

Once the dust settled, guards tried to usher Beta Robert back to his original

seat. However, he refused. He insisted on instead sitting with Margie. We ultimately decided to allow him to sit in the same box, but not next to her.

During the transition, I took a moment to check on Lily. Finding out that Evelyn was her half-sister had been incredibly hard on her; I knew that finding out that Sheila's pup was ALSO her half-sibling had to be killing her.

Sure enough, when I turned to her, Lily was fighting back tears. I gently placed my hands on either side of her face, and I stroked her cheek with my thumb.

"Do you want to step away for a few minutes? You and I can go somewhere and talk?" I mind-linked her.

"No," she said bravely, "we need to finish this."

"We can finish this after we take a minute or two," I reassured her.

"No, I will be okay. I already knew my father was a cheating bastard. What's one more half-sibling?"

"But Evelyn's mother is at least sane. This pup -is currently in the incubator of the devil Incarnate?"

"Yeah."

"We can't exactly do anything to change it now. We just need to make sure none of them hurt anyone else again."

I kissed her forehead.

"Is Nick okay?" she asked me.

I looked off-stage, to where Nick was standing

He looked frazzled.

"You okay, Dude?" I mind-linked him.

"The father who raised me is having a pup with the she-wolf who raped me.

I'm doing dandy. Any other

surprises in your pocket?" he asked sarcastically.

"I didn't know the pup was your dad's," I said quietly in the link.

"How could you? None of us did,

"We still have to deal with the council. Are you okay to keep going?"

"My wolf will not let me get drunk or take wolfsbane anymore, so yeah... I guess I am as good as I can be.

Just please push my organs back into my body if I explode," he replied.

"When Jenny comes to claim my

body, I want her to see me in all my handsomeness, not with my colon kissing my brain."

I shook my head. Good ol' Nick.

I looked back at Lily. "He is doing about as well as you are," I told her.

“Okay. Let’s finish this, then.”

Once everyone was seated again, I turned back to the council members. “Gentlemen, I want to return us to where we started before that distraction. A meeting has been called to request the removal of Alpha Randall and to request the investigation of crimes being committed within West Mountain Pack. A request has also been made for a public poll.”

Councilmember Herman stood up. “I have already told you, Son, the council has made its decision. And you have no authority to demand a poll. Only a member of the council may request a poll.”

“And I already told you before the interruptions that I demand a poll,” Lily stated loudly.

“Who are you to demand anything from us? We are well aware of who you are and what your history is.

Each of the council members on this stage are chosen to serve with the blessing of the Moon Goddess.

You, on the other hand, were determined to be so weak and undeserving that the Moon Goddess took

worthless human child,” Councilmember Brown said tersely.

“Is that so?” Lily asked, raising an eyebrow.

“Yes. Your mother was right. You should not be on this stage. You have no role in this conversation. If you insist on calling yourself James’ mate, you should go home, lay on your back, and prepare your bed for his return.” Councilmember Brown continued.

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I silently prayed to the Moon Goddess for patience and restraint. I knew that Lily had everything under control, and I knew that she needed to do this on her own, but I wanted to kill Councilmember Brown and every other member of the council that was looking at her disrespectfully right now.

Lily scanned the row of council members. “Do you all feel that way?” she asked with an her voice.

creepy edge to

I watched as three of the other council members -essentially, everyone except Frank and Ray-glanced

over at Margie. Margie nodded, and they then replied “yes” in unison. Lily laughed. “Wow. So you aren’t even trying to hide the fact that my mother “Young lady, I command you to leave the stage now and go back home,” Councilmember Brown stated.

The weight of his alpha command could be felt by everyone on stage, including me.

Lily laughed. “Did you just try to alpha command me, Member Brown?” “LEAVE NOW, YOUNG LADY.”

“And again?” she laughed. “Do you really think that even if I left, you would be protected here today? Do

you think that I am the only who knows what you and the other councilmembers have been doing?”

Brown looked at her in confusion. “What are you talking about? And how are you ignoring my command?”

Lily sighed. “Not only does your command not work on me, Member Brown, but you have even bigger

problems than me. However, before we talk about those problems, I would like to talk to Members

Sampson and Stoller. The two of you need to make a choice. Do you stand with Member Brown, or do

you stand with me?”

“We stand with the Moon Goddess,” Member Sampson replied.

“Good answer. Let me ask my question differently. Do you believe that the investigation into wrongdoing at West Mountain Pack should be closed? Do you agree with the proposed exoneration of Stephanie and Sheila?”

“We believe in the process. Only members can call for a public vote,” Member Stoller answered.

“Answer the question,” Lily said, using a bit of her alpha authority.

“No. We have serious concerns about what has been happening at West Mountain. It is clear to us that things are far worse than they ever have been portrayed to be,” Sampson said.

Then, Stoller continued the answer. “We fought tooth and nail with the other members about it this

morning. However, the other members could not be convinced to even investigate any longer. They

insisted that we announce the full exoneration of all involved except Jenny Brogan at this party.”

Stoller and Sampson looked at each other, clearly surprised that they had just said what they said.

Lily smiled. "Thank you. Now, alphas, I believe this would be a good time to address the second basis for your requested meeting this evening."

Brady stepped forward and smiled back at Lily. For the first time in months, I did not want to kill him.

"Yes, thank you future luna Lily. The second urgent matter for discussion has to do with the prophecy and the makeup of the werewolf council itself. You see, we have reason to believe that several members of the werewolf council have been compromised. We request their immediate removal and replacement."

I watched as the faces of the council members paled.

"Only the Moon Goddess herself or the chosen one can remove a council member," Member Sampson said hesitantly.

"Correct," Brady responded.

"Then your request is overruled," Member Brown said quickly. "Meeting adjourned. Release everyone in the boxes."

"Do not release anyone," Lily interjected.

"Who are you to overrule my authority?" Member Brown asked.

"Are you really that dense?" I asked him, unable to keep myself quiet any longer.

Brown turned and looked at me. "Are you saying that you are the chosen one?" he asked.

"Now you are being intentionally stupid," I sneered.

"James is not the chosen one," Lily said calmly. "The prophecy says the chosen one will be a female."

"Who is it then?" Member Brown asked, fear obvious in his voice.

"Oh, I think you already know, Member Brown," Lily said teasingly. "But here, why don't I give you another hint. The chosen one is the one you just told to go home and lay on her back." I looked at Margie and Beta Robert, and then over at my parents, Sheila, and Stephanie. All six of their jaws were on the ground, and I could feel their collective fear from where I stood on the stage.

Goddess, justice is sweet. And yet we are just getting started.

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Chapter 0258

(Luna Jane POV)

I arrived at the party a few minutes late. Normally I would arrive at these kinds of events with Randall, but he was meeting with James before the party, so I came by myself. I almost did not show up, but I came because I knew that as the luna of this pack- I had to.

The space was beautifully decorated and completely filled with wolves. There were very obviously more than 500 wolves in attendance.

It made me want to throw up. Yes, really.

It was no secret to anyone that I was against having this party. Even though Margie paid for the food and decorations, at least two dozen omegas and three dozen security guards had to work overtime for the event, and those overtime costs would be solely borne by the pack. The pack simply did not have the money to be incurring those kinds of unnecessary expenses anymore.

In the last few months, more and more of our allies had ended or "paused" trade contracts with us, and we had also had a variety of accounting irregularities that we were trying to sort through. If things continued this way, the pack was projected to run out of money within the next two to three years.

And yet -despite all of that, the money was not even what bothered me most about the party. What bothered me the most was that the party was to celebrate Stephanie's return and her (forced) marriage to James. That did not sit right with me.

Randall and I had had several fights about the party and James' marriage over the past several days, especially after I overheard him talking to Margie about the plan to alpha-order James to marry and mark Stephanie if he showed any resistance tonight. I kept begging him to reconsider, to let me turn myself into the werewolf council and be done with our debt to Margie. Unfortunately, he would not hear of it. He said that disclosing my bad acts could jeopardize our remaining trade contracts; that he could not function without me if the council had me executed or

Imprisoned for what I did; and that James was not stable, responsible, or strong enough yet to take over in his stead. Randall insisted that it was my duty to him and to the pack to stay the course. He also reminded me that James used to love Stephanie, and he reassured me that James would eventually

thank us for forcing his hand.

Although I eventually (and reluctantly) agreed with him, as the days passed, I found myself starting to care less and less about my so-called duties and obligations. I was tired of my every decision being clouded by fear, guilt, and obligation. For once, I wanted to do what was right. For once, I felt OBLIGATED to do what was right.

Unfortunately, though, I did not know what "right" was anymore. No matter what decision I made, someone would get hurt. The situation felt helpless. Almost as soon as I walked into the ballroom, two guards approached me and kindly requested that I follow them. I did not think twice about it; I knew the guards well, and I trusted them.

The guards took me to one of our security rooms, where I found Robert and Randall waiting for me. The guards then left the room and locked the door. That was my first clue that something strange was going on.

I asked Randall how his meeting went with James, but he did not say anything. Instead, he hugged me tightly, as though he was afraid of something. Randall was not afraid of anything except Margie and the werewolf council. I raised my eyebrows at Robert, silently asking him what was going on, but he only shook his head in confusion. That was clue #2.

The next significant thing that happened was that I saw Joey and Jessica walk in with Lily. Lily looked beautiful and radiant. I was shocked but relieved to see that she was alive. I wondered when she got here and where she had been. I also wondered if James had seen her yet. I asked Randall and Robert all these questions, but they did not have any answers for me. of th

Wolves of all ranks began to wait in line to greet Lily. That was Clue # 3 that something strange was going on.

Lily was graceful and friendly to everyone who greeted her. There was no sign of the bullied little girl that left the pack several months ago, and it occurred to me that I had not seen her smile, at least not genuinely, in over six years.

Then Stephanie arrived. I figured out that James and Lily had reunited much faster than Stephanie did, and I smiled. A part of me wanted to shout “I told you so” to Randall, but I bit my tongue.

We next saw James walk in and make a beeline for Lily. The cameras were positioned such that we could see the look in James’ eyes as he approached and kissed her, and we could also hear their conversation. For the first time in a very long time, I felt hopeful. I had never seen my son look so happy. I did not know how he had managed to find Lily, much less how he had convinced her to forgive him, but I was grateful that he had.

James took the stage with Lily. Together, they projected strength and confidence. I had not seen this side of James before, and I was impressed. Was this side of him always there and we ignored it, or had Lily somehow brought out this side of him?

I smiled a little when James thanked the staff for all their hard work. I was ashamed that doing so had

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When the guards opened the door and we were called to the stage, we all knew that something huge was about to happen. Robert and Randall tried to resist going to the stage, but I did not. I was genuinely curious about what was going on, and I trusted my son for the first time in a very long time.

Once we took the stage, things started to happen very, very quickly.

When the request was made to remove Randall from his alpha position, I could feel Randall next to me becoming extremely angry and upset. He clearly wanted to say or do something, but for some reason he did not.

When Stephanie realized that she had been lied to and James was not her mate, a part of my heart broke

for her... even though I knew that I was partly to blame. I had been so angry at her for faking her death/

kidnapping that it never even occurred to me that she was sort-of a victim too.

An even bigger part of my heart broke for Margie when everyone learned that Sheila’s pup was Robert’s. I had been prepared for a lot, but I honestly never saw that coming. Margie was my best friend, and she

never told me that Robert cheated on her. I thought she told me almost everything, but I was obviously wrong. I started to wonder how many other secrets Margie had kept from me. Next, while everyone else focused on what was happening between Margie, Sheila, and Robert, I found my eyes glued to James and Lily. I saw the tender moment that they shared while everything was going on around them. It made my heart ache, because I knew that had things gone my way, James and Lily would not be together right now. Instead, James would be married to Sheila and raising Robert's pup as his own. What a fucking fool I was. Before I could fully process those feelings, the fight began between the councilmembers, James, and Lily. At first, I worried that James and Lily had taken on more than they could chew. But if they had, they did not seem to realize it. Their confidence never faltered, and neither did the confidence of the three alphas that were apparently standing with them.

I felt disgusted when Member Brown began talking about Lily going home and lying on her back. I wondered how such a disgusting male had ever been selected for the council. And then it was revealed that Lily was the chosen one. At that point, time stopped. Almost literally. For a full five minutes after Lily revealed her identity, the only sound that could be heard in the entire ballroom was that of heartbeats. Some relaxed, others beating really fast. Lily and James seemed to be appreciating the silence. I do not think a single wolf on the stage -except for the two of them- had any color left in their faces, including myself. Just before I began to seriously worry whether one of us might choke on the fear that was now pulsating "As the Goddess-chosen leader of the werewolf council, I hereby accept the alphas' request for an immediate, public meeting to discuss alleged wrongdoing at West Mountain Pack. Before we begin that meeting, however, I will first address the makeup of the council. The alphas are correct that the council has been compromised. As you all know, the Goddess has given me the power to remove and replace compromised members, and I intend to do so right now."

Lily turned on her heel. "Member Brown, why don't we begin with you. Please, have a seat... unless your would prefer to lay on your back."

Suddenly, Margie stood up. "What are you doing?" she screamed. "You are lying! How can a wolfless ore like you be the chosen one? You are weak and disgusting!" 1

Lily turned and glared at her. "Sit down and be quiet, Mother. We will deal with you in a moment."

It was clear that Lily used an alpha command, because Margie immediately sat down and no further noises came from Margie even though you could tell from her lips that she was still trying to talk. I silently wondered if Dr. Hyder was going to have to administer more medication to keep her calm.

You

are not the chosen one!" Stephanie suddenly yelled, taking over for Margie.

"You cannot be!

Everyone has told me that you are wolfless and weak!"

Lily rolled her eyes and sighed. "Does anyone else here seriously doubt me?" she asked.

Most in the ballroom remained silent, but there was grumbling from a few... including especially those

seated in the box. That grumbling must have been enough for Lily, because before our eyes, she

transformed into the most beautiful wolf that I have ever seen. She was a bluish-silver color, and on the

right side of her rump she had a large black crescent moon symbol.

Her wolf walked up and down the stage, pausing to loudly growl in the face of each of the council

members except for Stoller and Sampson. Afterwards, she went back to her position next to James. He

rubbed her fur and then removed his suit jacket and shirt. Lily transformed back to her human form and

slid James' shirt on while James put his jacket back on.

"Anyone else continue to doubt me?" she asked.

No one said a word.

"Good. Now let's have some fun. We have wolves waiting to talk to everyone in the boxes, so let's be quick about it."

Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 260

Chapter 0260

(James POV)

I cannot tell you how satisfying it was to watch Lily put Member Brown in his place.

Judging from the wet spot that formed in the middle of his pants after Rose made her appearance,

Member Brown was well aware that he was not going to be “Member Brown” for very long. And indeed, he wasn’t.

Once Brown was sitting down again, Lily forced him to publicly confess his prior dealings with Margie. He confessed that:

He had been obtaining females from Margie once or twice a year for five years.

The females Margie provided for him were used for “f&k the virgin parties” that he liked to host for his buddies.

-At the beginning, he just watched. However, after his mate died, he started to actively participate.

-At the end of each party, Margie gave Brown the option of either “purchasing” the girls for a longer visit or returning them for use by others.

Brown became especially attached to the last female that he purchased from Margie, and she has been living in a cage in his home for the past eight months.

Margie threatened to “repossess” the female -i.e., help her “escape”- unless Brown made sure that Stephanie and Sheila were exonerated and that he would support James being forced to mark and marry Stephanie.

Margie was careful to always deal with Brown by phone, because this avoided him being able to alpha-command her. However, Brown admitted that he never considered using an alpha-command on her regardless. He liked Margie, and he appreciated that they seemed to share the same values.

When Brown’s public confession was over, Lily placed her hands on Brown’s head so that she could talk to his wolf. After she was done, she somberly announced that Brown would no longer be a member of the werewolf council. She also made the difficult decision to free his wolf.

You might wonder why the decision to free Brown’s wolf was difficult for her. It

was actually something that we had talked about at length prior to leaving Black Moon. Separating the human and wolf counterparts of a werewolf is essentially the equivalent of separating two parts of a single soul. It is not something to be done lightly.

After talking it through with Dr. Hyder and I, Lily decided that she would only do it only as a last resort, side has been actively suffering as a result of the human side's choices; AND 3) the wolf wants to be freed from his or her human counterpart.

Unfortunately, Brown's situation met all three of Lily's criteria.

The actual freeing his wolf involved Lily placing her hand on Brown's heart and chanting a brief prayer to the Moon Goddess. It was physically painful for both Brown and Lily, and it required a lot of Lily's energy. Nevertheless, once it was done, it was done. Brown's wolf was able to return to the spirit world with the Moon Goddess; arrangements were made to rescue Brown's caged female; and Brown-the-human was escorted to the dungeons to wait a more formal trial in a few weeks.

The overall process was then repeated for Member Herman and Member Merrill. Their stories were remarkably similar to Brown's, at least in the sense that they purchased females from Margie and were later blackmailed to do what she wanted. Herman's "quirk" was that he liked females who could "take it rough"; Merrill's quirk was that he liked the females to be underage. Both of their wolves were desperate to be freed, and Lily quickly made the same decisions she made with Brown.

That left us with Member Neil Bloch. Before he even sat down, he began protesting that he had not done anything. He seemed pretty convincing...until Nick came forward and played two audio recordings.

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The first recording had Margie telling Nick that she had recently discovered that Neil had an obsession with LGBTQ pornography. She asked Nick to offer Neil a deal: that he (Nick) would make a personalized video with Neil in exchange for Neil helping Margie. The second audio had Nick proposing the deal to Neil; Neil saying that he had previously talked to Margie and agreed to it if she liked the male she found for him; Neil approving of Nick's "casting" in that video; and Neil and Nick discussing schedules.

