

## Chapter 0069

(Alpha Brady POV)

I am an idiot. An absolute, complete, utter idiot.

First, I rejected my mate.

And now... now I am falling head over heels in love with someone else's.

What is wrong with me?!?!?

I should have known the second that my father asked me if I loved Lily. He has always been far more intuitive than I give him credit for. I am supposed to be the special wolf, and yet he always seems to know things far earlier than I do.

When he first asked me if I loved Lily, I did not want to admit it. I knew that I was attracted to her, but I told myself that it was impossible that I already loved her. Lily and I had only just met, and she had a ton of trauma that she was working through. My interest in her was primarily to be her friend and help her. Of course, it did not hurt that she was incredibly hot and kind and funny... but no, I did not love her. I could not; I had not been romantically interested in a she-wolf since Evelyn.

And yet the second my father asked me if I loved Lily, a part of me knew he was right. I fought it for a while... but being here in Hawaii with her has caused even the most reluctant



part of me to accept the facts.

I am not falling in love with Lily; I have fallen in love with Lily.

F&&k my life.

Here I am, in the most romantic state in the United States, with a she-wolf that I have just realized that I am in love with, and I am basically forcing her to meet with her ex-mate.

How did I end up in this position? Is this my punishment for what I did to Evelyn?

I know we are here for Lily's own safety. We need to find out what James wants and then close that chapter of their lives. ... But what if James decides that he wants her back? Worse, what if Lily decides that she wants him back too? Getting over Evelyn was one of the hardest things that I have ever had to do. Truth be told, I am still not over her. Am I prepared to get my heart broken for a second time?

Honestly, in retrospect, I wish I had convinced Lily that we needed to meet James somewhere else. Somewhere with a cold, snowy climate that requires lots and lots of layers of clothing. Alaska would have been a great choice. But no, stupid me had to agree to Hawaii. A place that not only screams romance and honeymoon fantasies, but which also all but demands that Lily walk around in tiny little bikinis, short shorts, and sun dresses. I am seriously running out of creative ways to hide the tent in my shorts. 1

I made sure to plan a lot of activities for Lily and I while we

were here. I thought doing so would be good to help her keep her mind off of James, and I think for the most part it worked. We were having a lot of fun. Heck, even our wolves were having fun together. Kalen is not quite as smitten with Rose as I am with Lily —he still misses Evelyn and her wolf—, but even Kalen is smitten, and I can tell he is becoming more and more smitten every day.

At night, Kalen and I would talk about strategies for what we would do or say when we saw James. We had never been good friends with James, but we knew each other and got along fine. Unfortunately, that was the past... before I found out what has been happening in his pack for years, right under his nose. It is tough for me to not want to pound him into a pulp... not only for what he did to Lily, but also what he has allowed to happen in his pack.

The night before the meeting with James, I dragged Lily to a traditional Hawaiian luau. I thought dinner and a show would be a great distraction for both her and myself.

I did not anticipate that the dancers would pull Lily on stage. Nor did I anticipate that they would have her change into a coconut bra and grass skirt. And I absolutely did not anticipate that Lily would be so d&&n good at belly dancing.

As I watched her dance and start to follow the professional dancers around the room, I made a decision. I did not care why we were in Hawaii; I did not care who we would be meeting with tomorrow; and I did not care if I eventually had my heart broken. I would live for that moment.

I grabbed Lily as she walked back over to our table. I looked into her eyes, searching for any sign of hesitation. Seeing none, I leaned in to kiss her.



Just before our lips met, that asshole James made his appearance. His loud growl from the back of the pavilion caused everyone in the pavillion to freeze. Eyes glaring at us, he then walked towards the stage, with an attitude suggesting that he thought he owned the place. He would soon learn, he did not.

I moved forward towards James, ready to fight him. Lily gently grabbed my arm, silently begging me not to do anything that I would regret. Unfortunately, what she failed to realize is that punching the lights out of James would never be something that I would regret.

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## Chapter 0070

(Several hours earlier)

(Joey POV)

I had managed to prevent Sheila from sitting next to James on the airplane, but I was not sure how I was going to prevent her from wrecking the overall trip... and our long-term plans.

We had already been on the plane for four hours, and I had yet to come up with a single idea to get rid of her.

Thankfully, the Moon Goddess must have been on our side.

Frustrated and bored, I pulled out my phone, turned on the plane's wi-fi, and discovered several text messages from my mate.

Jessica: "Where are you going?"

Jessica: "Joey, answer me. It is important. Where are you going?"

Jessica: "Joey, please for the love of the Goddess, answer me."

Jessica: "JOEY!"

Me: "Babe, so sorry. I had my phone in airplane mode. I forgot the plane had wi-fi. What is up? Is

everything okay?"

Jessica: "No, it is not okay! Have you seriously forgotten about Sheila? And Lily? And our plans?"

Jessica: "Where are you going?"

Me: "Hawaii. You know that."

Jessica: "No, I mean do you have a direct flight or a stopover?"

Me: "A direct flight..."

Jessica: "To where?"

Me: "Hawaii."

Jessica: [angry emoji] "Where in Hawaii?"

Me: "I dunno. One of the islands."

Jessica: "Answer my d&&n question or I swear to the Goddess you will not get laid again for a year. Which island are you flying into?"

Me: "Baby, I really dunno."

Jessica: [exacerbated emoji] "Babe, I love you... but what kind of security guard are you if you don't even know where you are going?!?!?"

Me: "I deserved that."

I did. I have never claimed to be the best security guard out

there. Even I would agree I am a little on the goofy, aloof side. I was a solid C minus student in school. I did just enough to get by and nothing more. I have taken that work ethic into my adult work life. It is how I like things: nice and chill.

Jessica: "Ask someone, please."

Me: "Why?"

Jessica: [angry emoji] "Do you want to get laid again, Joey?"

I sigh. I am not going to win this fight. I may be lazy, but that trait does not apply to my sex life. No way am I willing to give up sex.

I reluctantly turn to James, who has ear buds in as he appears to be listening to something on his phone. I lean over and tap him gently on his shoulder.

"What?!?" he snaps at me.

"I am sorry to bother you, Sir, but... where are we going?" I ask him.

"Kansas City, Kansas," he responds sarcastically. 1

I choose to ignore the sarcasm. "I am sorry to ask, Sir. I know that we are on our way to Hawaii, but my mate is a bit of a paranoid one. She wants to know which island we are going to."

He rolls his eyes. "What kind of security guard does not bother to figure out where he is going before he gets on a plane?"

"To be fair, Sir, we only had twenty minutes to get ready for this trip, and you were the one who made all of the arrangements. If you wanted your security forces to be prepared, you should have given us a little more time and a little more information."

James glares at me. For a moment, I worry that my disrespect is about to cause me to be suspended from my job or banished from the pack. Thankfully, after groaning, he answers me. "Honolulu."

"Thank you, Sir."

Me: "Okay, Baby. I found out. We are going to Honolulu."

Jessica: "Nowhere else?"

Me: "James just told me. We are going to Honolulu."

Jessica: "Please confirm with him that your hotel is in Honolulu."

Me: "He said we are going to Honolulu."

Jessica: [angry emoji]

SERIOUSLY? Is the sex with Jessica good enough to let her bully me like this?




Yeah. Yeah, it is. Crap.

I lean over and tap James gently on the shoulder again.

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