

## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 166

### Chapter 0166

(James POV)

Today is the day. I am nervous, but I am also ready. We do not have all of the answers, but we have controlled for as many of the unknowns as we can.

Joey and I have spent countless days and nights in bars in human territory, with me always coming back to the pack late at night smelling heavily of alcohol and yelling at Joey to leave me alone and stop “baby-sitting me.”

I have made no secret that I am unhappy about this wedding, and so my parents and Nick think that I am drinking my misery away, just like I did after Stephanie “died.”

In truth, I am 100% sober; I drink soda water at the bars. I am just using the bars as a cover to meet with

other alphas and members of our team. With Dr. Hyder’s assistance, I have even convinced Alpha Brett

to re-establish the alliance with our pack once we clean house at the top.

The plan for the event is fairly simple. We are holding it at an opera house in human territory. We have

allies of the Movement positioned around the event hall, ready to step in if anything becomes violent.

Most wolves unaffiliated with the Movement believe that the event will begin with Stephanie’s traditional

birthday memorial. Once all of the standard speeches have been given, it will be time for my “grand

speech.” During that speech, I will talk about how much I love Stephanie and how no one will ever

compare to her. I will also spend 10-20 minutes giving her obnoxious and unearned praise (Margie decided to write the speech for me). Once all of that is over, the red curtain on the stage will lift,

revealing a wedding arch. Sheila and her bridesmaids will descend a spiral staircase in the corner

opera

house and walk to the stage. Sheila and I will then proceed with the wedding and marking ceremonies, which will be of course officiated by my father.

It is all beautiful and bullshit pageantry, and none of it will actually come to pass.

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Instead, just before I take the stage to give my “grand speech,” I will demand my father step down from his post as alpha and turn the pack over to me immediately. I estimate that there is a only a one or two. percent chance that my father will agree to do so. If I am wrong and he does, great -it will save everyone some headache... but again, it is highly unlikely.

So assuming he tells me to go to hell, I will take the stage for my grand speech. Only, instead of talking about how much I love Stephanie, I will publicly accuse Stephanie, Sheila, Margie, and my parents of serious werewolf crimes. Audio of some of the (accidental) confessions will be played, and pre-recorded witness testimony (with the names and faces of the victims blacked out) will be shown on the movie projector behind me.

Representatives from the Movement and a few of our allies will be positioned to ensure that none of the

five try to escape or interfere with the playing of the evidence. We will also have wolves positioned near any likely supporters, including Nick and those known to be on Margie’s payroll.

At the end, I will demand that the werewolf council -which we have ensured will have front row seats- exercise their authority to remove all five from power, and arrest them until they can be officially tried for their crimes. With the backing of the allied alphas, I will also ask that I be allowed to take over the pack in

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their absence.

Overall, the plan seems relatively simple. Unfortunately, as I mentioned at the beginning, there are still pieces missing. For example, we have been unable to figure out who Sheila’s baby daddy is, assuming she is even pregnant.

Aiden is of course the most likely candidate, but who the f&&k knows who else that she-wolf has slept with. We also do not know who all is on Margie’s payroll, or when if at all- Stephanie will appear.

Ultimately, we decided that we needed to move forward anyway. We will trust who we know to trust, and we will pray to the Moon Goddess that it is enough.

As I finish buttoning my tuxedo shirt, I look in the mirror and take a deep breath. How I wish Lily was here with me right now. I just hope after this all gets done, she will agree to come back here with me.

I pick up my phone to call her. I know she is going to be a nervous wreck

today, just like I will be. It will be nice to hear her voice, to give me a good reminder of why I am doing this, (Margie POV)

Today is the day. I am very happy and excited. I, of course, wish that James was marrying Stephanie and not Sheila, but Sheila will be a good luna too. I cannot wait to meet little Stephan or Stephanie.

My only concern is whether Stephanie's death has permanently damaged James. I have seen how much he has been drinking and staying out late the last couple of weeks. I hope that lifestyle of his ends once he and Sheila are married and marked. If not, we may need to consider Randall picking a different heir for the pack anyway.

James has one chance to get this right. His speech about Stephanie today had better be on point. I wrote it, so I will know if he messes up any of the lines.

A few of my clients are on the werewolf-council, so I pray that he does not embarrass me. I need to remind them of how strong our pack -and my influence- really is. I do not want anyone interfering with my business now or in the future.

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Chapter 0167

(Author POV)

Finally, it was "show time." Guests were seated on all three floors of the large opera house, while presenters, members of the wedding party, and a few other important guests waited in rooms backstage. along with their (admittedly necessary) security details.

Each backstage room was equipped with televisions that allowed the occupants to see and hear what was happening on stage. Trusted members of the Movement were operating all of the audio and visual equipment required for the event, and they were also manning each of the doors in and out of the large facility.

Sheila was waiting in the largest backstage room. She was accompanied by her parents, Margie, Beta Robert, Nick, Jenny, Luna Jane, Alpha Randall, and her bridesmaids. Sheila was dressed in a beautiful form-fitting wedding dress that had been custom made out of lace and silk, and her neck, ears, and hair were draped in expensive diamonds.

Despite the fact that the event was also supposed to be a memorial, almost everyone in Sheila's room seemed focused on the upcoming nuptials and found themselves to be in a relatively upbeat mood. (The) only exception was

Margie, who was in a good mood but still-like always- 98% focused on Stephanie.)

While waiting for the event to start, Sheila excitedly talked to her parents and sister about her plans for her new pup and the new life that she expected to have as Luna of the West Mountain Pack.

Meanwhile, James was waiting in a much smaller room, and the mood around him was much more subdued. He was accompanied by Dr. Hyder and a few trusted members of the Movement including Joey

and Jessica. Despite being told everything was fine and was being handled, James insisted on repeatedly going over their action plan again and again. In his mind, doing so was absolutely critical to ensure that no detail was missed that could derail the success of their plan. Unfortunately, James would soon learn that no plan was perfect. Several events would take place that were beyond anyone's control. One of those events was named "Stephanie."

Yes, they knew she might come. They had planned for that. What they had not planned on was Stephanie causing a loud and public scene. They had assumed that-after faking her own death- Stephanie would linger quietly in the background, not wanting to draw too much attention to herself. Unfortunately, this belief was premised on a false assumption as the Movement and others would soon learn, Stephanie had NOT faked her own death... or at least she had not done so intentionally. Nor was Sheila the ultimate culprit.

At exactly two o'clock, Alpha Randall took the stage to welcome everyone to the elaborate affair. The traditional memorial speeches began soon thereafter. Forty-five minutes later, Sheila's older sister encouraged her to go to the stage to get a better view of the event. Sheila did not need to be told twice; this was a day that she had been dreaming of for years. She quickly snuck onto the stage, hiding behind the red curtain that currently hid the wedding arch from the audience. She moved the curtain just slightly so that she could peek out. Awe-struck, she stayed and continued to watch.

Meanwhile, Stephanie had just arrived. She had gone to the pack as planned, but found that almost everyone was gone. Placing her suitcase on the bed in her old room, she found the invitation to the wedding memorial waiting for her. She was immediately enraged, and quickly headed to the opera house

to stop the event.

Dressed in blue jeans, a sweatshirt, and a black bob wig-her normal traveling attire when trying to hide her identity- she made her way there, not even bothering to properly park her car. The security guards did not bother to question her until she got close to the stage, but at that point, Nick's mate and Sheila's older sister Jenny-who must have recognized Stephanie despite her outfit- told the guards to let her through. 2

Stephanie was so blinded by her anger towards Sheila that she did not question why Jenny seemed unsurprised that she was alive and well. Instead, Stephanie simply demanded that Jenny show her where

Sheila was. Jenny ushered Stephanie to the stage and then stepped back. Separately, Jenny mind-linked members of the Movement to let them know that the plans had just changed. She asked that sound be cut to the front-stage microphones and that all of the back-stage microphones-where Sheila and Stephanie now faced each other- be turned on. Finally, she begged that no one be allowed to intervene until further order. 1

Receiving confirmation from members of the Movement -and a few choice curse words from James- Jenny sat down in a nearby chair. She was close enough to see everything play out in real time, but far enough to not be in the way. Jenny smiled as she watched her two long-term enemies angrily glare at each other, and she prayed that the drama and revenge would be just as sweet as she had dreamed.

Soon, the sound of two she-wolves yelling and cursing at each other filled the opera house. As the alpha and beta couples listened, they and everyone else found themselves frozen in place. They could not have intervened even if they wanted to; they were too shocked by the sound of the voice that they had not heard in over six years, and shocked too by the revelations that were quickly coming out during the course of the she-wolves' argument.

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Chapter 0168

(Author POV)

Stephanie and Sheila continued to glare at one another. Given the way that the stage was set up -with thick red curtains on either side of them- they had no idea that anyone else could hear them. Nor did they realize that Jenny had her cell phone recording their interaction and live-streaming it, meaning that everyone in the opera house and backstage could not only hear the

interaction, but also watch it.

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Of course, if Stephanie and Sheila knew, it is doubtful that it would have changed anything. The anger and resentment flowing between the two of them was palpable. This was a stand-off many years in the making.

Sheila broke the silence first.

“Well, well. The wicked witch of Spain has finally returned,” Sheila said sarcastically.

Stephanie moved forward and slapped Sheila hard.

“YOU TOLD THEM THAT I WAS DEAD???????”

“No, I did not. They came to that conclusion on their own.”

“BUT YOU LET THEM THINK THAT? What happened to the kidnapping note? And the scene we set up?”

“What happened to being home in two years, Stephanie?!?!?! Did you really expect everyone to wait around for OVER SIX YEARS while you f&&ked some human in Spain? What did you expect to happen?”

The pack and James moved on.

AND

“YOU TOLD ME THAT THEY WERE OUT SEARCHING FOR ME! AND I SENT LETTERS! WHAT DID YOU DO WITH MY LETTERS?!?!?!?”

“Those letters were ridiculous! You are lucky that I did not give them to anyone! ‘Dear Family and James, I love you so much. Blah, blah, blah. My kidnappers say that they may let me go home in a few months. Blah, blah, Blah. Please continue to search for me and keep my memory close to your hearts. I hope to come home soon. Did you actually expect anyone to believe that nonsense?’”

“So it was better to let them think that I was dead?!?! Was this always your plan? To kill me off and steal my mate? And take my position as luna?!?!?! Do you even care about this pack? About what the Goddess wanted?”

“Oh give me a break, Stephanie. Do not get all high and mighty on me. You wanted to fake your own kidnapping so you could get away. You did not care about this pack. If you did, you would have stayed. But you didn’t.

Do you know what could have happened if they believed you had been kidnapped like you wanted them to believe? The clues you left would have led them to blame another pack! War could have been started and wolves could have died!

And for what? So that you could have time to ‘find yourself? So that you and

Antonio could have thr eesomes and travel the world and have a ha lf-breed pup? That is ridiculous! I was the one who stayed, Stephanie. I took on the responsibility of taking care of your mother and her business and of helping with this pack and taking care of James.”

“And James?” Stephanie repeated with venom in her voice.

“And James,” Sheila confirmed with a sneer. “He’s an even better f&&k than your father. Or your brother.”

“YOU B&&TCH!!!”

“What? Upset that you have not been able to taste from those pots? Well, I hate to tell you, but you missed your chance. I am marrying James today, and there is nothing that you can do to stop it.”

“HE IS MY MATE!”

“And he is my baby’s daddy!”

“You are pregnant?”, Stephanie gasped.

Sheila smiled triumphantly. “Jealous? My pup is not going to be a ha lf-breed like yours! My pup will be alpha of this pack!”

“Bullsh&t! We both know that James would not touch you even if you came stamped and sterilized.”

“Things have changed while you have been gone, Stephanie,” Sheila taunted.

“Poor James was S0000000000000000 sad when you left. He would not come out of his room for months. But I helped him, just the way you and I used to help those old geezers in the care home. You put on their loved one’s dress, the appropriate wig, you start playing with their balls, and BAM! Instant bliss.”

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“YOU ARE LYING, SHEILA! I KNOW YOU ARE!” Stephanie screamed in rage.

“Am I now? Well, I guess you will never know. Because you see, I am going to marry James today, Stephanie. And he is going to mark me, and we will live happily ever after. If you want, you can be my maid of honor. Although... you will need new clothes. What the f&&k are you wearing, Stephanie? I thought you were living with a rich human, not a homeless man.”

Stephanie glared at Sheila. “You will never get away with this, Sheila! James will never marry you! He will take one look at me, and smell my scent, and it will be all over for you. He will want his mate! Not you!”

Sheila started laughing. “Oh, about that. You know how I said things have changed? Yeah, you aren’t his

“OF COURSE, I AM HIS MATE! WE HAVE KNOWN THAT FOR YEARS!

James and I have loved each other

since we were kids!”

“You really think James is going to want you now? After you had a kid with a human? And after you. your own death? And after I tell him everything that you did?!?!?”

“James will never believe you! No one will. I am innocent!”

“Oh, so you did not fake your own death? Sheila continued to taunt.

“NO! I DID NOT FAKE MY OWN DEATH, YOU B&&TCH! I FAKED MY OWN KIDNAPPING!”

“And of course you couldn’t even get that done right!”

“That was YOU, Sheila. I trusted you! You are the one who messed this all up!”

“Actually, that was me,” a voice from across the stage said softly.

Sheila and Stephanie spun around. “Jenny?” they said in unison.

Jenny slowly approached the two of them.

“Did you really think I didn’t know?”

“Know what?” Stephanie asked in both confusion and fear.

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## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 169

Chapter 0169

(Author POV)

“Did you really think that I didn’t know?” Jenny asked.

“Know what?” Stephanie asked in both confusion and fear.

“What the two of you were doing. Who you were hurting. My bedroom was right next door to yours for years, Sheila! And you are my little sister. Do you two really think I would not know what you were planning to do?!? And what you had already done?

Sheila stood up straight, pretending to have no idea what Jenny was talking about.

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“You know, little Sis, I always knew that you wanted Nick,” Jenny explained.

“You and Stephanie had this grand plan. She would be Luna and you would be the Beta female. It would be perfect, just the way that Margle wanted it.”

“Well, that is not what the Moon Goddess decided to do, was it?” Sheila said bitterly.

“No, it was not. But that did not really matter to you, did it? The two of you did what you always did when things did not go your way.”

“What are you talking about?” Stephanie asked innocently.



Jenny rolled her eyes. "Seriously? You can drop the fake innocent act, Stephanie. I already know the one who sent me the video."

"Video?" Sheila asked, you are

"Oh, you did not know? Yeah, sister dear. Stephanie decided to do her friend a solid. When I did not immediately reject Nick-despite feeling the betrayal pains for hours on three separate occasions- she decided to send me one of the videos of you f&&king Nick in my bed."

"You sent that to her?" Sheila asked, Stephanie.

Stephanie shrugged. "I wanted to help you become the beta female. I figured if Jenny saw the video of you and Nick, she would realize that you were a better fit for him than she was."

Sheila looked at Stephanie with gratitude in her eyes. "You did that for me?"

Stephanie shrugged again. "I cared about you, Sheila. You were my best friend. I would do anything for you."

Jenny looked back and forth between Sheila and Stephanie, her jaw on the ground.

"OH MY GODDESS!!!! Do the two of you even realize how insane you sound right now?!?!?!?!? Sheila, you slept with your older sister's mate, and you are GRATEFUL that Stephanie sent me the video proof?!?!? What about me? What about my feelings?"

Sheila rolled her eyes as she turned her attention back to Jenny. "You are not leadership material, Jenny. You never have been. You did not deserve a mate like Nick. And I have no idea why you would go ahead and marry him after he cheated on you like that. You clearly have no self-respect."

Jenny growled. "Perhaps because at the end of the video, you and Stephanie talk about how many drugs you had to give Nick to get him to sleep with you. And even after all the drugs, he still had no interest in being with you, so you had to take him into my room so my scent would be all over the place."

Sheila turned back to Stephanie, this time her gratitude replaced with rage.

"WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT THIS IN THE PAST, STEPHANIE! YOU HAVE TO TURN OFF THE CAMERA AT THE END! AND YOU HAVE TO EDIT VIDEOS BEFORE YOU SEND THEM OUT!!!! ARE YOU REALLY THAT ST UPID?!?!?!?!?"

"F&&k you, Sheila. At least I tried to help you. I did not try to steal your mate! Unlike you right now!"

"URRRRRRRRRGGHHHHH. Well, it is too late, Stephanie, I did not get Nick, but I will get someone better. James is marrying me today! Your mother already said so! And you know Luna Jane and Alpha Randall always do what

she says!”

Jenny ran her hands down her face, shocked by the number of screws missing in both of their brains.

YOU ARE BOTH LOSING IT! NO ONE IS MARRYING JAMES TODAY, YOU MORONS! SHEILA, STEPHANIE IS BACK. MARGIE WILL NO LONGER CARE ABOUT YOU. AND STEPHANIE, JAMES IS. NOT. YOUR. MATE. HE NEVER WAS! BOTH OF YOU NEED TO PULL YOUR HEADS OUT OF YOUR ASSSES!!!!”

Sheila and Stephanie exchanged looks with each other. “Was it you? You were the one who changed the kidnapping scene to look like a murder?” Stephanie asked in an angry whisper.

“Of course, it was me! I did not want anyone looking for you! Or starting a war! I wanted you dead, like I want Sheila dead! You both deserve to rot in hell for all the horrible things you have done!”

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“Threatening a future luna is a crime, Jenny. And you are threatening two of them right now,” Stephanie said in a menacing voice.

“That is right, Jenny. Stephanie and I will report you to Alpha Randall and the werewolf council. You will be punished both for threatening Stephanie and for threatening me!” Sheila sneered.

And just like that, the friendship between the two frenemies was repaired. All it took was a common enemy on whom they could pin all of their life’s problems. (James POV)

I stared at the television in absolute shock.

“Have they always been like this? Do either of them have any brain cells not tainted by hate, selfishness, and evil? I do not understand how Sheila and Stephanie think they could get away with any of this!”

No one in the room said anything in response to my question.

I looked up, and Dr. Hyder and Joey had worried faces. Joey’s face I could understand, but Dr. Hyder’s face surprised me. Dr. Hyder never worried about anything.

“What is wrong?” I asked, suddenly concerned.

“Black Moon is under attack,” Joey said quietly.

I stood up. “LILY!!!!!”

I glanced at the others. “We have to go. What... what do we do about...”

“Go. Get our Luna. We will take care of things here,” Joey said adamantly.

“The only cover blown right now is Jenny’s, but we will take care of her. We will take care of the others when you get back. Lily’s safety is the number one priority.”

I nodded, feeling thankful.

Dr. Hyder and I rushed out of the opera hall together. I headed towards the woods and was about to shift when Dr. Hyder stopped me. 1

“What are you doing?”

“Shifting.”

“How fast can your wolf run?”

“90 miles per hour.”

“My car goes 200. You will go with me. We will make phone calls to the allies on the way. The plans have obviously changed.”

## Mated in the Shadow of My Sister Chapter 170

Chapter 0170  
(James POV)

As Dr. Hyder speeds towards Black Moon, my heart is racing. I frantically try calling and texting Lily, but I am unable to reach her. I know that she is strong, but I have never seen her fight. Plus, until she marks her chosen mate (hopefully me), she will remain a valuable target.

In between calls and texts to Lily, I pray that Brady has the attack under control, and that Brady has taken all reasonable steps to protect her.

No, I take that back. I pray that Brady has taken ALL steps to protect her. F&k what is reasonable. This is Lily that we are talking about. I will not survive losing her. She has come to mean way too much to me. I love her with all of my heart and my soul; I have never been so sure of anything in my life.

Even going 200 miles per hour-or whatever version of that speed Dr. Hyder is going as he navigates

bends in the road, other vehicles, and natural barriers- the drive to Black Moon is a long one. I start

looking for some sort of mental distraction that will prevent me from shifting into Luke or breaking a window in anger.

I briefly consider talking to Dr. Hyder about what the f&k it was that we heard while Stephanie and Shella were fighting, but Dr. Hyder drives like he fights: rough and nasty. I do not

dare interrupt him. Plus, he has been on the phone almost constantly, using an earpiece instead of the car speakers.

So... in between calling and texting Lily, praying, and worrying, I let my mind drift towards the fight at the opera house.

I was both shocked and happy when I found out that Jenny was part of the Movement. She was close enough to the key players that she had valuable inside information. I did not know her reasons for joining the Movement, though; I did not have time to ask.

Until Jenny said it on stage, I had no idea that Nick had cheated on her with Sheila. Does Nick know? That sounds like a weird question, but Jenny mentioned that Nick was drugged and we know how Stephanie and Sheila operated.

If Nick did not know, what is he thinking or feeling right now?

On the other hand, what if Nick did already know? Was that why he wanted me to marry Sheila? To somehow and strangely appease Jenny?

No, that does not make sense. But is there anything about the leadership of West Mountain Pack that makes sense anymore?

I wonder if Jenny is still committed to Nick. They have always seemed like a happy couple. I mean, they were never deliriously happy, but they were happy enough.

However, Jenny knew from the beginning that Stephanie was alive, and it is clear that she never told Nick. She also never told him about her involvement in the Movement, and she still has a lot of rage and resentment about what happened between Nick and Sheila. Can you keep those kinds of secrets and carry that amount of rage inside you for that many years and have it not negatively impact your relationship?

I am not sure, but I seriously doubt it.

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Something else is bothering me. Sheila told Stephanie that I was a better f&&k than her brother and

father. Sheila was obviously lying about sleeping with me, but she was apparently telling the truth about sleeping with Nick. What about Beta Robert? Surely he did not sleep with Sheila. That has to be a lie too, right?

But... what if it isn't? Oh, Goddess. That adds a whole new layer to this mess. My head is spinning.

"Son?" Dr. Hyder suddenly says to me, breaking me out of my thoughts.

"Huh?"

“Brady’s beta just called. The attack is over. No known casualties, but a ton of injuries.”

“Where is Lily? Is she okay?”

“He did not know.”

“Oh.”

“Has she answered you back yet?”

“No.”

“You know it’s strange. Brady did not tell me that Lily got a phone, and I do not have her number.”

I look at Dr. Hyder curiously. “You don’t?”

“No.”

“I thought the two of you were close.”

“We are. Unfortunately, have not had time to go and see her since she got back from Hawaii.”

“Huh.”

7 have a bad feeling.”

That single line makes my heart race again. Dr. Hyder’s bad feelings are never good things.