

# LMFA-NO!

"Brady and Poppy Wren" Arc

Written by

Madison Ballard

In the home office of her stylish condo, POPPY WREN responds to an e-mail from a favorite casting director on the phone.

POPPY

No, I love the concept -- it's filthy! I'm trying to think who I have that's right --

KNOCK, KNOCK! At her front door.

POPPY (CONT'D)

Well, I'll send the sides --

Who is that? She's not expecting anything from Amazon.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK!

POPPY (CONT'D)

Someone's at my door --

KNOCK, KNOCK!

POPPY (CONT'D)

Maybe it's a neighbor's lunch delivery...

Poppy approaches the peephole.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK!

THE DOOR RATTLES.

POPPY (CONT'D)

Oh my God! They're breaking in!

The door UNLOCKS, opens, and BRADY WREN enters with his bag of stuff. His face is covered in sexy bruises.

POPPY (CONT'D)

Oh my God! Oh my -- BRADY?!

BRADY

Will you be quiet?

POPPY

(relieved)

Oh my God. No. Jesus. Okay, fuck. I'm sorry, Liz. It's The Most Inconsiderate Brother on the Universe.

BRADY  
 "In" the universe. I knocked!

POPPY  
 You didn't call!

BRADY  
 I tried, but you told me where the  
 key was. I thought you weren't  
 home!

POPPY  
 Liz, I have to go.

BRADY  
 Sorry, Liz.

POPPY  
 I'll get back to you after I sort  
 him out.

Brady sits. She hangs up.

POPPY (CONT'D)  
 That was a work call, Brady.

She notices his wounds and gets sisterly.

POPPY (CONT'D)  
 You're hurt.

BRADY  
 Garden variety for a tragic hero.  
 I'll heal with a little rest.

POPPY  
 But I've never seen you so tan!

BRADY  
 (breezily)  
 Sunlight becomes me.

POPPY  
 So, where'd the hero's journey take  
 you this time? Ecuador? Tasmania?

BRADY  
 Palm Springs.

POPPY  
 Palm Springs?

BRADY

Yeah! It was... really demonic.  
Really informative, too. I got a  
lot of information.

Poppy rolls her eyes.

2 INT. POPPY'S DINING AREA - NIGHT

2

Brady serves Poppy dinner. When he sits, she catches him by the chin and admires the lack of bruises.

POPPY

You were all shades of purple not  
five hours ago...

BRADY

You've seen worse.

POPPY

I guess it's just easy to forget...

BRADY

... So, your boy. His name is  
"Cliff?"

POPPY

Yes. And yes, Cliff as in  
HeathCliff.

Brady nods. His sister loves Wuthering Heights.

BRADY

Do you like anything else about  
him?

POPPY

He is a tech producer in Silicon  
Valley.

BRADY

Named HeathCliff!

Poppy won't respond to that.

BRADY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I'm just... curious as  
to why you didn't want HeathCliff  
to join us for dinner.

POPPY

Because the only other person who  
knows you're here is traumatized.

BRADY

Liz? Traumatized? That's a little dramatic for a minor home invasion miscommunication.

(beat)

Now, do you want to know what I've learned about my prophecy? It involves killing a shadow.

POPPY

(considers it)

Alright. Tell me what you've learned.

That's it.

BRADY

Well, it involves killing a shadow!

Poppy nods.

POPPY

Maybe you should stay in tonight, Brady. Take it easy until you find out more. We can watch Wuthering Heights! I'll you wear my bonnet!

Brady smiles weakly.

3 INT. POPPY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

3

Brady returns from patrol with a bloody sword.

POPPY

What are you doing?

POPPY turns on the lights, and he aims the blade at her.

BRADY

Jesus, Poppy!

(hides sword)

I almost took your head off!

POPPY

What are you doing with that?

BRADY

With what? It's not human blood. I was just getting a glass of water.

POPPY

Brady, don't act like an idiot!

BRADY

I'm a hero, not an idiot! Okay,  
fine!

He drops the sword. Poppy winces at the thought of blood touching her sheets or couches.

BRADY (CONT'D)

Yeah, I went out patrolling.  
Because I'm a hunter. I fight the  
things that every bad word was  
created to describe, and I'm not  
done yet.

(beat)

Poppy, I was called upon to help  
save the world from unspeakable  
evil, so it's STILL a part of me...  
Learn to deal.

POPPY

Whatever shadow is following you  
always finds you. It'll find you  
again, and that's not okay...  
I'm never going to deal with it.

BRADY

It's my destiny, Poppy. It's been  
my destiny since unspeakable evil  
killed Mom and Dad.

POPPY

Well, I refuse to accept that. And  
I refuse to see you end up like  
them because of this burden put on  
you. You deserve for your life to  
matter, to mean something beyond  
killing things. Beyond trials and  
tasks. You can be important to  
people in a REAL way.... Brady,  
I've scheduled headshots for you  
tomorrow.

The horror!

INT. CHANGING ROOM - DAY

A cramped dressing room with flickering fluorescent lights. A rack of pastel bathrobes, slippers shaped like fruit, and a single sad folding chair.

BRADY WESTENRA, clutching a clipboard like it's a flotation device, edges inside.

BRADY

(under his breath)

I went to college. I had aspirations. I wanted to write books. Now I'm... Shampoo Boy.

He notices someone already inside.

A MAN in a silky robe, slicked-back hair, intense stare.

It takes Brady a beat.

BRADY enters and meets BOBBY DE NIRO from the sketch show.

BRADY

Hi, I'm Brady! I'm the shampoo boy.

Bobby is still in character.

BOBBY

You talkin' to me?

BRADY

Should I not?

BOBBY

You talkin to me?

Bobby, still in character, leans in and wraps his arm around Brady. Denis improvises with his impression.

KNOCK, KNOCK! Poppy enters with a smile and a clothes bag.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Hey! Baby!

POPPY

Shut up, Bobby. Brady!  
Congratulations! Are you excited?

BRADY

I'm delighted.

POPPY

Great! Because there's been a minor  
creative pivot.

BOBBY

(As De Niro)  
Pivot?

POPPY

Yeah, with Brady's wardrobe.  
Specifically, the bathrobe.

BRADY  
That's all I'm wearing.

POPPY  
Well, you're not wearing it  
anymore! You're wearing this!

She unzips the garment bag, revealing scandalous, kitschy  
bubble themed lingerie.

BRADY  
I'm not wearing that!

BOBBY  
(as De Niro)  
Eh, maybe you should quit being  
mouthy and try it on.

BRADY  
Shut up, De Niro! Poppy, I'm a  
tragic hero, not an underwear  
model!

POPPY  
But you got a pay bump!

BRADY  
I'm not wearing that!

POPPY  
Why not?! You've got a great body  
and a nice bubble butt --

BRADY  
-- POPPY --

POPPY  
-- Why can't you show it off? I  
mean, for God's sake, you spend all  
your time fighting demons!

Brady and Poppy pause, then turn to Bobby.

BRADY  
Metaphorically speaking.

POPPY  
He fights personal demons.

BRADY  
As we all do.

BOBBY

Eh. Never rat on your friends, and  
always keep your mouth shut.

Bobby shrugs.

INT. SHAMPOO SET - DAY

Brady, in the lingerie, stands in the prop shampoo bottle.

BRADY

I never knew that hair needed  
complete and total full hydration!  
I knew it would be tricky, but also  
that it would be best done with  
natural ingredients, like the ones  
in Soft N Smooth Shampoo. Not only  
is my hair so soft, but it's so  
smooth! Thanks to Soft N Smooth  
Shampoo! Thanks, Soft N Smooth  
Shampoo, for making my hair so soft  
and so smooth!

7

INT. LA STREET - NIGHT

7

Brady patrols the ominous street, when LOVIE GUSSIE blocks  
his exit. Lovie Gussie is a traveling Hero.

She looks like she kicks ass too.

LOVIE

How'd you do it?

BRADY

How'd I do what?

LOVIE

I saw you outside... In the  
daylight.

BRADY

Are we going to have a problem?

LOVIE

We already have a problem.

Lovie attacks! Right hook, left jab, kick! Brady counters and  
steps back.

BRADY

You don't want to start this.

Lovie kicks him on his back.

LOVIE  
No! I'm finishing it!

She pulls out a wooden stake and tries to stab Brady. He dodges and gets away.

BRADY  
What the hell are you?

His left hook. Her dodge.

LOVIE  
What? You don't remember me? Lovie Gussie!

BRADY  
What'd you call me?

Brady attacks with jabs. Lovie dodges them and blocks a kick.

LOVIE  
You really don't remember me? You evil bastard!

Lovie tries to trip Brady.

BRADY  
You're the one attacking me!

LOVIE  
You're the blood sucker!

BRADY  
Me?

LOVIE  
You ruined my kill count!

BRADY  
Wait a minute!

Détente.

BRADY (CONT'D)  
Look, lady --

LOVIE  
-- Lovie --

BRADY  
Lovie, I'm not a vampire.

LOVIE  
It's a trick. Your strength --

BRADY  
I'm a tragic hero.

LOVIE  
No! You're as bloodsucking  
Hollywood demon! I'm THE tragic  
hero! This is a trick!

She punches. He catches her fist.

BRADY  
Do I act like a vampire?

LOVIE  
Yes! An incredibly evil one!

BRADY  
You don't even know me!

LOVIE  
(re: his hand)  
You're warm...

BRADY  
I'm human.

Lovie becomes horrified and backs away.

LOVIE  
It's not possible...

BRADY  
What's not possible?

Lovie runs away.

INT. LIZ'S OFFICE - DAY

Shady agent LIZ (40s) reclines behind her desk chair, leering at Brady.

LIZ  
I love your look.

BRADY  
Thanks.

LIZ  
And I love your face.

BRADY  
I appreciate it.

LIZ  
I've booked you on a sketch show, a  
friend of mine is the show runner.  
Can you dance?

BRADY  
Absolutely.

Liz smiles.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT (SKETCH)

Poppy, as FINALA, runs from THE HOLOCENE murderer.

FINALA  
Please don't do this!

Holocene swipes; Finala screams.

FINALA (CONT'D)  
No, please don't!

Holocene gets her to the ground; he's about to strike.

FINALA (CONT'D)  
No! Please! I don't want to die!

She braces, expecting a stab.

Holocene tilts his head in confusion. Finala tries to fight  
him off and flee. He detains her.

FINALA (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry!

He moves to strike!

FINALA (CONT'D)  
I just don't want to die!

Holocene stops again, tilting his head.

FINALA (CONT'D)  
Yeah, I don't want to die! Nobody  
want to get chased or murdered! You  
killed my friends, and we didn't  
ask for this and didn't want you  
to!

Holocene never knew.

FINALA (CONT'D)  
It was a bad thing to do!

Holocene backs away.

Finala scurries to the door but looks onto him with pity.

FINALA (CONT'D)  
It was a bad thing to do!

She crosses over to him.

FINALA (CONT'D)  
But I forgive you.

He DROPS HIS WEAPON and falls to his knees. Finala hugs him. Mutual catharsis.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

Finala gives Holocene a make over, helps him start a business, and introduces him to HIS WIFE at a party.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

An Old Holocene is on his deathbed.

WIFE  
Good morning, dear. You have a visitor.

Old Finala sits by his side.

FINALA  
You didn't think I'd let you go without saying goodbye, did you? You're my best friend. Better than the ones you killed all those years ago... And I don't want you to die.

She kisses him on the forehead, and he stabs her in the gut. Her shaky hand looks at the blood. She CHUCKLES.

FINALA (CONT'D)  
Oh, you....

She collapses and the two die.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)  
CUT!

The scene ends. Brady takes off his mask.

INT. POPPY'S LIVING AREA - NIGHT

Brady sits with a blue skinned humanoid creature named TRALL.

TRALL

The nexus of evil saw your shampoo commercial.

BRADY

What did they say?

TRALL

They still want you dead.

DING! Trall's phone.

TRALL (CONT'D)

Hang on.

BRADY

Who are you texting?

Trall takes a selfie.

TRALL

A friend, nosy! I've working on my social media. The trick is getting multiple streams of income.

BRADY

You're the princess of an ancient race of demonic warlords.

TRALL

As long as you frame it as an aesthetic, no one will question it. You should really get on PixPost.

BRADY

I need to be as covert as possible.

An ad on Trall's phone plays Brady's shampoo commercial.

INT. CAFETERIA SET - DAY (SKETCH)

A Twilight, Young Adult novel parody.

Mike and Poppy (as Katherine) guide Brady (as Drago) to their table, but he shoots another, fiery glance back at Atheri.

She turns to Joe.

ATHERI  
Hey, Joe.

JOE  
Oh, hey. Checking out the new guy?

ATHERI  
WHAT? No!

JOE  
(laughs)  
Okay!

ATHERI  
That's not funny!

JOE  
Oh, okay then... Well, it looks  
like Mike like him.

Atheri looks over at the table. Mike rubs Drago's shoulder to alleviate his subconscious bisexual attraction.

ATHERI  
And look at Katherine Madison,  
throwing herself at him.

Katherine monitors the homoerotic situation. Mike is making Drago feel his biceps.

ATHERI (CONT'D)  
She's the worst.

JOE  
I like Katherine! She's nice and  
smart and good at a lot of things!

ATHERI  
Like make-up and blowjobs? She's a  
**slut**, like all the other girls  
here.

THE OTHER GIRLS at the table glare at Atheri.

ATHERI (CONT'D)  
Well, not you! The hot girls.

The Other Girls ignore Atheri.

ATHERI (CONT'D)  
Like Katherine Madison --

JOE  
 -- Who is coming over, so you  
 should stop talking about.

Katherine approaches.

KATHERINE  
 Hey, Joe. Hey, Catherine.

ATHERI  
 Actually, I go by "Atheri" now.

KATHERINE  
 Really?

ATHERI  
 Yeah, Atheri. Not Catherine, not  
 Cat, not Cathy. Atheri.

KATHERINE  
 (to Joe)  
 My mom calls me "Rini."

JOE  
 That's sweet.

KATHERINE  
 So, I don't know if you had a  
 chance to meet the new student,  
 Drago Knight, but he's kind of  
 smitten with you, so I thought I'd  
 extend an invitation to Mike's  
 party tonight. You can come, too,  
 Joe. What do you say?

ATHERI  
 Yeah, sure.

Atheri looks over at Drago. He stares at her neck.

DIRECTOR  
 CUT!

11 INT. LOVIE'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

11

The cheap but quiet hotel room meets Lovie Gussie's modest  
 needs and reveals that she's a messy person

KNOCK, KNOCK! It's Brady.

LOVIE  
 I'm not going to invite you in.

Brady pushes past.

BRADY  
My name is Brady Wren.

LOVIE  
You found me pretty quick, Brady.

BRADY  
People tend to remember the name  
Lovie Gussie.

LOVIE  
My fatal flaw.

BRADY  
What's your real name?

LOVIE  
Guston, Evelyn Guston.  
(off Brady's look)  
Okay, fine. Emily Guston.

BRADY  
Emily's a fine name.

LOVIE  
It's not Lovie. What do you want?

BRADY  
Last time we spoke, you were  
convinced I was this vampire you  
have a grudge against. This  
unspeakable evil?

LOVIE  
I said you were evil, but not  
unspeakable evil. Not THE  
unspeakable evil.

BRADY  
It's becoming me.

LOVIE  
No, it's not. That thing is older  
than you.

Lovie searches for something.

BRADY  
What is it?

LOVIE  
A vampire.

BRADY  
Just a vampire?

LOVIE  
An incredibly vicious vampire. He was a tragic hero turned around --

BRADY  
-- How do you know all this?

LOVIE  
We've crossed paths before. I barely got away the first time we fought, so my Mentor Figure tried to find out more about him. We trained, we studied him, and then we hunted him.

Lovie finds an old photograph of Alexander Miller. His uncanny resemblance to Brady makes him look away.

LOVIE (CONT'D)  
He ripped out Margaret's spine and shoved it down her throat... He's sadistic and dangerous.

BRADY  
And he looks just like me...

LOVIE  
No, shit... Sorry I tried to kill you yesterday.

BRADY  
(shrug)  
It happens. So, how do I go about tracking this guy?

12 INT. POPPY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

12

KNCK, KNOCK, KNOCK. Poppy answers the door.

ALEXANDER stands quietly, posing as Brady.

POPPY  
What?  
(to no response)  
Did you lose your key?  
(to no response)  
Is everything okay, Brady?

Alexander pouts.

POPPY (CONT'D)  
Well, come inside and sit down!

Alexander enters.

POPPY (CONT'D)  
Can you say something?

ALEXANDER  
Something.

POPPY  
Cute. What's wrong with you? You...

Alexander grins.

POPPY (CONT'D)  
Who are you?

ALEXANDER  
I'm Brady.

POPPY  
You're not my brother.

ALEXANDER  
That's an odd thing to say.

POPPY  
What are you?

Alexander chuckles before attacking and biting Poppy.

13 INT. POPPY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

13

Poppy is unconscious on the couch. Brady is bound and gagged on the floor. Alexander paces in front of them both.

ALEXANDER  
I remember sensing you, it felt like a pull. You don't even understand it, do you? What brought this on? Why you? Why me? Why now? This has been a long time coming because, you see, where there's you... there's me.

(beat)

But quite frankly, I'm rather disappointed in you. But in some ways I also pity you. You don't realize your soul is MY soul. Your life sustains my despicable existence.

(MORE)

ALEXANDER (CONT'D)

Well, for a couple more hours at  
least... Unless you've got some  
more fight left in you.

Brady realizes that he does.

**THE END**