

My Step-Dad Is My Mate

Chapter 1

Two Years Later

Biting down on my apple while I approached my front door, I bobbed my head slowly to the song Hero by Kid Cudi & Skylar Grey.

School was a drag as usual. I wasn't one to be bullied or anything like that, it's just always depressing to me.

Entering my front door, I shut it quietly to avoid gaining my mom's attention if she was home....or his

Since Richard married my mother, I've avoided them as much as I could for two years now.

Believe me, I love my mother more than life, but I can't stand seeing her and Richard together.

It's always hurt me, since they started dating, from the wedding and to this very day it still gets under my skin like nothing else.

Richard and I barely spare each other more than 20 words each per day, if not 10, but our moments of intense gazing are always shared. My feelings for him have grown so much stronger over these couple years and I'm afraid as to why they haven't gone away yet. I always deemed it as a high school girl crush type of thing but this is just psychotic.

I dropped my bag near the door entrance and proceeded to the living room to catch up on my Empire shows, but the thought, feeling and mood for anything Empire left me as my eyes set on the scene before me.

Richard was sitting on the couch with my mother on top of him, the two sharing a very heated make out session moment.

I growled loudly, as anger flared in me as well as a huge amount of jealousy.

"Danica!" My mom yelled out, breaking their kiss and scattering off his lap.

"I'm sorry sweetie. We just...- well we..." She trailed off, looking down at her hands blushing up a storm.

Thank God she didn't think my growl was anything more than what she assumed; a growl of irritation at the sight.

Calming down myself the best I could, I shot her a fake smile, something I had learned to do to perfection after all this time of living a lie about my true feelings.

"It's ...alright mom. I was actually about to go for a run..." I said.

A run definitely would be good right now. Freeing my wolf for a few hours, running out all my stresses and freeing me of them, at least for a little while is what I surely need right now. My eyes trailed over to Richard, who was standing behind my mother in silence fixing his clothes while his gaze was also on me.

"Oh but what about your birthday party?" She asked and I cringed. I forget my own birthday, not like I cared anyway. Only thing I couldn't wait for was the fact I'd find my mate and he'd free me from these out of place feelings for my step-father.

"I'll be back in time for it." I replied quickly, eager to leave the awkward atmosphere.

"Okay sweetie, but be careful." My mom said and blew me a small kiss. I caught it and placed the imaginary kiss on my chest then blew her one back before turning my back to leave.

"Keep your guard up Danica." His smooth huskily sexy voice said, sending shivers down my spine.

I bursted out through the front door, heading towards the thick woods and stripped of my clothing, leaving them in a close by stump then shifted into my dark red wolf.

Shaking out my thick shiny fur I then jetted into the forest, admiring the feel of the wind through my coat and on my face.

Running in my wolf form as always made me feel a sense of calm I couldn't get from anything else. It made me feel free, like I had nothing to worry about. No awkward home to go to, no unexplainable feelings I feel I should I have a reason for or explain. I just felt free.

I came to a large open field which was filled with white daisies and white roses. I often came here when I was younger after my father died. To scream, cry and let out any emotion that I didn't want to express in front of my mother. It became my little Safe Haven and it still is.

Doing a quick scan of the area, just as a precaution to make sure no rogue wolves were around, I then laid down and rested my head between my paws and let my thoughts take over.

I can't keep my true feelings for Richard to myself any longer if they won't go away.

But what kind of daughter would I be if I ruined my mother's marriage? Maybe I can play it out for just a while longer...

This is the last year of high school after all, I planned on moving out. The distance between him and I would surely do me good.

I hope.

With all my thinking, I didn't realize I had fallen asleep in my haven.

I felt a body nudge mine, but I let out a small threatening growl then tried to continue with my nap, until I got nudged harder and I bolted up, baring my teeth at whoever it was.

A large grey and silver wolf stood before me, looking at me with amused eyes and I felt myself heat up as I realized who it was.

Richard.

"What do you want?" I asked through link and he chuckled.

"Your mother was getting worried so I came to look for you. Tracked your scent here." He replied then nodded his head to a fresh tank top and jean shorts near his paw.

"Shift." He requested and I wanted to roll my eyes so badly but I ignored my temptation and picked up the clothes in my mouth, going behind of a large oak tree and shifted into my human form, putting on the clothes.

When I came from behind the tree. Richard was standing there in long black jeans, with his chest on full display.

I tried to tear my eyes away from the site but I couldn't seem too. "Danica? Hello." Richard called out my name, while snapping his fingers in my face, snapping me out of my reverie.

Wait when the hell did he get so close?

"Uh...s-sorry....Let's just um ..y-yeah" I trailed off then turned around to head home, that was until I felt Richard grab my hand, sending waves of tingles up my arm.

"Danica..." Richard whispered as he tilted his head back, with his elongated teeth showing.

In the blink of an eye, I was pinned down against the soft forest floor with Richard on top of me.

"You smell so good." He whispered against my neck then placed a warm kiss on it, making me groan in delight.

His canines scraped against my neck, the exact spot my mate's mark would reside.

Suddenly he pushed himself off of me, almost like I had burned him and I looked up to see Richard pinching the bridge of his nose.

"Party is starting soon, let's go." He said then started to walk ahead in the direction of my house.

What the hell was that?

Chapter 2

I hopped out of the shower and walked into my bedroom.

Checking the time, I realized I only had about 30 minutes before the clock struck 12:00; indicating my birthday, the beginning of my party and finding out who my mate is.

I couldn't wait to find my mate and be rid of these feelings for Richard once and for all. It was becoming too much. Surprisingly I was able to ignore it- scratch that- avoid it for two years but now I can't. It's too much and eventually, I can see myself giving in and doing something I know I'll regret.

I slipped on my bra and panties, not really caring whether it matched or not, then went digging around my closet for an outfit.

Oh boy, this is going to be a while.

20 minutes later I double checked my outfit in the mirror and nodded in confirmation, it was alright.

I put on a black Midi dress that ended just above my knees, some gold bangles on each hand, my black studs and my 5in black heels.

Dresses aren't really my thing, although I owned a lot of them, I never wear them simply because I find them uncomfortable and irritating to walk in.

I sprayed some perfume on me and grabbed my phone, stuffing it into my purse then left my room and made my way downstairs.

The party was outside, because the inside of my house didn't have enough room to fit my pack plus two other ones. Can you imagine how messy that would be?

I stood in front of the front door, hesitant to open it.

I checked the time on the wall clock.

60 seconds before 12:00.

To say I was nervous was an understatement. Meeting my mate for the first time, if I even find him that is but I have a strong feeling he's here. My wolf side is feeling more powerful than my human side, indicating to me my mate is in fact, present tonight.

Will he like me? I sure hope so. I don't think I'd survive being rejected. 5

Deep breaths Danica, no need to be afraid.

4

You've been waiting forever for this.

3

Just remember...

2

That no matter what happens tonight. Mate or no mate, or rejected or not.

I won't run and I won't back down.

I pushed open the front door and was greeted by hundreds of smiling faces.

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY DANICA!"

A grin found its way onto my face and I ran into the large swarm of people and attempted a group hug but failed miserably because of my short arms.

"Happy birthday sweetie." I heard a voice say behind me and I turned around to see my mom has the tears in her eyes.

"Thank you mommy." I said and went over to her, engulfing her in a hug.

"This party looks awesome." I added as I pulled away.

"I'm glad you like it Dani. It took some work, but you know I'll do anything for you. I was just thinking..." Mom said with a sad smile as the tears she was obviously holding back came down on her cheeks. "H-how proud your father would be to see you right now." She finished after a while then broke out in a sob.

"I know...I miss him too." I added sadly and rapidly blinked my tears away.

Every day I thought about Daddy and what things would be like if he was here.

Mom would be with her rightful mate, and we'd be a real family instead of Richard being here and me having these uncontrollable f- Wait, where is Richard?

"I'll be back in a bit sweetie. Don't worry about me, I'll go clean up and be down soon. Go have fun. Find your mate." Mom said with a wink at "mate" and I blushed.

I couldn't sense my mate that strongly anymore, so that means he probably went to the other side of the yard. I'm sure he is still here; I feel it even if it is faint.

Despite my excitement to find my mate and enjoy the party, I couldn't help but wonder about Richard. I haven't seen him yet since I came out and I didn't see him in the house.

You know what? Fuck him, this is my night and I'm going to make the best of it.

It was about 3am now and most of the people here were either drunk beyond my own comprehension or passed out in my house.

I'm surprised my mom hasn't shut it down yet. Normally, any Party she plans she shuts it down before TOO messy and by the looks of my lawn right now....you'd think a bunch of crack heads lived here. Werewolves party hard and I am not even kidding when I say that.

I am yet to pinpoint my mate, but he is close I feel my wolf squirming. You see, to find out who your mate is, you have lock eyes or touch each other to know but both persons must be 18 or over to feel the connection of the pull.

Do you know how funny it would be to have your mate in your face on a daily and not even know until you're 18? Crazy right?

I was beginning to get frustrated. At some point, I even had the idea of walking around and bumping into every male I see until I found him, but that would probably take me hours.

"Having fun Missy?" A friend-or more like acquaintance, Veronica came up to me and asked but she is obviously drunk as hell if she is even talking to me. Hell, only type or

conversation I've ever had with her is when she asks me for homework answers in class.

"Yup." I replied briefly and then she walked- scratch that, stumbled away into the arms of her mate, another acquaintance of mine, Jules Wayne. Jules wasn't so bad, he actually is a good guy but I'm just not the making friends type so I stick to my 'Hi, hello' routine then it's pretty much ignoring your existence afterwards.

(I literally am like this in person, just omg I'm so antisocial)

Looking around the vast numbers of drunken wolves, I searched for my mate, but only to come up empty handed.

God, how fucking hard is it to find one person?

Eventually, my mind wandered to Richard again. The asshole may not be my most favorite

person but damn, he owes me a happy birthday.

I took a deep breath, trying to single out Richard's scent out of the dozens around me. It was a few moments till I got it and it led me to the house, but I figured he was maybe getting more drinks or something so I let him be.

"Okay y'all" The DJ boomed through the microphone, almost startling me.

"Guys grab a lady, ladies grab a man and lemme see you wolves out there...get down to this."

The song Body On Me by Rita Ora & Chris Brown came on and I felt a surge of energy came through me.

I had to dance to this.

Shaking my hips side to side, I made my way to the crowd of wolves who were dancing with their mates or just amongst each other.

"Can I have this dance birthday girl?" I heard a deep voice whisper in my ear.

At first I was hesitant but I figured since I can't find my mate yet, it wouldn't hurt to just dance for just a little while. Hell, it's my birthday; I deserve to have a little fun.

I grabbed the person's arm and brought their body closer to mine. Grinding my lower body against him, I felt him push back against me, our bodies syncing together in our movements

"You can dance." The guy whispered in my ear while he wrapped his arm around my waist and I chuckled.

"You'd be surprised." I replied back and continued my grind.

"Do you-" the guy was cut off as he was yanked away from me abruptly. I spun around fast enough just to see who pulled him off, and when I locked eyes with the stranger, my entire world came crashing down around me.

Richard looked away from our gaze and glared at the guy I was dancing with, who I identified as the Beta of one of the packs who came for my party.

I watched in shock as Richard speeded into the house, the door slamming behind him.

Rage flooded my system and I swear I could see red.

I can't believe this son of a bitch!

"I'm sorry, my step-dad is a little over protective. I'm gonna go talk to him, have fun, find your mate maybe." I said, adding a wink to the last part and he nodded while laughing.

I stomped to the house and opened the door then closed it. "RICHARD!" I yelled. The music was loud outside and since about 99% of the wolves here are drunk, they're heightened senses are bound to be a little off.

With hearing no reply from him, I tracked his scent to the guest bedroom upstairs.

"Dammit!" I heard his voice yell from the room as I walked up the stairs, followed by the crashing sound of something breaking.

What the hell? Is he mad? This asshole has no reason to be freaking mad.

I took a few calming breaths, then pushed open the door to the room, ignoring the obvious mess on the floor.

"You knew didn't you?" I asked, awaiting his answer.

Richard paced the room, avoiding eye contact with me and muttering to himself.

"Richard." He wasn't answering me, so I repeated his name once again, but still no answer. I felt my anger flare and my claws started to grow longer from my rage.

"RICHARD!" I yelled and his head snapped up to face me, looking me directly in the eyes and the pull from our bond made itself very much known.

"WHY THE F*CK DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WERE MY MATE?"

Chapter 3

This birthday has to be the worst of my life. Hell, it was probably the worst in all of history.

Richard...my step-dad is my freaking mate and he is married to my freaking mother.

Right now, I watched angrily as Richard and my mom cuddled up on the couch as we had "family" movie night.

I can't believe him...

All this time he knew....All this time when he was going on dates with my mom and kissing her and screwing her-OH MY GOD I CANNOT BELIEVE THIS.

I felt like crying. My heart was breaking every time I glanced at them. Mom looked content and happy snuggled up against him. This is why I made the decision to not tell her. Yet... anyways.

You don't know how bad she was after Dad died. She was the beyond definition of a wreck. How many nights she tried to commit suicide or cry for hours before she fell asleep. I was there for her through all of that and I refuse to let her reach that low again...even if she has to be happy with what is mine...

Maybe I could reject him and let them be...

But that won't stop the pain I'll feel from seeing him every day. "Everything alright hunny?" I felt mom's hand on my shoulder and I looked at her to see a concerned look on her face.

"Yeah mom I'm fine."

"Well, you're crying. The movie isn't that sad sweetie." She added with a chuckle.

My hand went up to my face subconsciously and I wiped my eyes. God, I didn't even realize I was crying, how am I going to do this?

"Oh. Ha-ha, just felt a little sad for John that Savannah married someone else. He really cared about her and waited for her but she went ahead and got with someone else, knowing it would hurt him." I said, and I saw Richard stiffen slightly as he got the message behind my words.

"Maybe she didn't have a choice." He added, not making eye contact with me and I shook my

head slowly.

"There is always a choice. People just love to play victim and act like they don't have one."

Richard didn't say anything in reply to what I said because he knew I was right.

He had a choice. He could have told me when he found out and spared me the pain I've been feeling all these years but no, he willingly lied to me and let me hurt seeing him with my mother.

I will never forgive him for that.

"Well" Mom began after a moment of silence. "Maybe if we finish the movie we can see why she-"

"I'm going to bed." I rudely said, cutting her off. I felt a twinge of guilt for snapping at her, she didn't know what was going on. It isn't her fault

I mumbled a goodnight and got up without waiting for a reply from either of them, heading to my room.

As I trudged up the stairs, my built up emotions took over and I silently sobbed.

How could he do this to me? How could any man put his mate through this type of pain willingly?

My human half despised Richard, but my wolf side craved him. For him to touch me, hold me

and make the pain go away.

But it will never go away because he is the one causing it.

Opening my bedroom door, I pushed it to close and flopped down on my bed, but then it dawned on me..

I didn't hear the door shut. His scent hit me like a pile of bricks and I felt like crying all over again.

"Fuck off Richard." I said with an added snuffle.

"Danica please, let me explain."

I shot up from my bed and stood before him, my arms crossed and I was seething. Bipolar, I know but is he being serious?

"Okay Richard. Give me your pathetic excuse as to why you lied to me all these years. Why you knew I was your mate since the moment we first met and said nothing. Why you watched me literally go for days and weeks in agony because you know I felt a connection between us, I just didn't know we were mates. Do you think I deserve this? Do you think my mother deserves this?"

She has been through too much Richard and you are playing her just like you played me. You are a selfish son of a bitch and I can't wait till I get the strength to reject your worthless ass."

The words poured out of my mouth like I was drinking water and for a moment, I didn't realize what I said.

Could I actually reject him? Rejecting your mate is the hardest thing any wolf would have to do besides their first shift. You would be cutting all ties from your other half, severing the mate bond and the pain you will feel from that, will be like no other, but do I have a choice?

Like I said before, there is always a choice but I won't put my mother through pain and let her fall back into despair. It may sound stupid, but you have to be in my situation to understand where I'm coming from. I love her, a lot and I would do anything to keep her happy, even if it costs me my own happiness. She is all I have left...

"I didn't have a choice Danica. I was surprised to even find you. I went through most of my life searching for my mate and I never found her, but I guess she just wasn't born yet." He said with a slight chuckle but I in no laughing mood.

"I couldn't tell you we were mates. You were 16 Danica. 16! I was 37. (Y'all better not say shit or I'm removing the age again. Just imagine David Beckham. He's like around that ag, maybe older and still fine asf so hush lol) Think about how that would look. I didn't think you would even believe me. And your mother...I didn't want to be with her after I first met you but I had to stay because if I left then I didn't know if I'd ever see you again. Danica I had no intentions of letting you suffer, I wasn't even aware you felt the pull. You never said anything to me."

I laughed dryly.

"Yeah I'm going to my step-dad and tell him I've had feelings from the moment we met with no explanations whatsoever. That made no sense to me. I was a kid. I don't give a shit what you think was right or what was assumed or whatever. The point is you should have said something.

Whether or not, I'd believe you that doesn't mean you stay quiet and keep something as huge as this to yourself Richard. You could have avoided this situation right now if you had just said something." Richard ran his hand through his thick locks and sighed, obviously frustrated.

"I'm sorry."

I rolled my eyes and wiped my tears.

"You knew it was going to hurt me but you did it anyway so you fuck you and your apology and get the hell out of my room."

He sent me a hurt look, and then reluctantly left my room, closing the door behind him.

My legs felt wobbly and my shoulders shook as a heart wrenching sob took over me and I fell to the floor.

Talk about a fucked up life.

Chapter 4

I sat on the moist forest floor and exhaled heavily after holding my breath for so long.

Meditation.

The night after Richard left, I looked up meditation and decided to give it a try.

It has helped some people and is said to be very calming.

So here I was, doing this just to get a grip on my emotions. The very emotions my amazing mate-note the sarcasm- has set within me. Richard... The very thought of him brought tears to my eyes but I decided to be strong. Strong for myself, or at least try to be.

Taking another deep breath and shaking the tears that threatened to fall, I shut my eyes tight and focused on the sounds around me.

The rustle of the leaves, the soft sounds of the grass moving in the breeze, it was all very calming.

My limbs started to feel slightly tense and I knew what I needed to do. Shift.

Standing up, I sniffed the air as a double checking procedure to be sure I was alone and I was.

I then stripped of my clothes, laying them down on the grassy and shifted into my wolf.

I shook out my fur and let out a small yelp then laid back down. Honestly I didn't feel the need to run or move around much, my body just felt like being in this form and staying

that way. A werewolf's wolf form is the most comfortable form to be in. It's like the truest part of yourself, well to any werewolf that is.

A slight pressure came from the back of my head; someone was trying to link me. I let up my walls and waited for whoever it was to speak. "Where are you Danica?" My mom's voice rung in my head and I sighed in relief that it wasn't him.

"I'm in the forest mom." I replied dully.

For a moment, she didn't say anything so I was about to put my walls back up but then...

"Can you come home to help me start dinner please? We have guests tonight."

I chopped up some seasoning and put it into the pot, adding the chicken and potatoes moments after.

"I think I can handle it from here. Thanks for helping sweetie." My mom shot me a weak smile and I nodded and turned to leave the kitchen but was stopped by my mother grabbing my arm

"We should do something later Dani, if you want. I feel like we aren't as close as we used to be."

Mom had a sad smile on her face and it broke my heart. I've been spending less time with since their wedding just to avoid Richard. It wasn't fair to her, even though a part of me despised her for marrying my mate, but that was the wolf part of me. Even though I was having an internal battle within myself for what I felt, I knew deep down I could never hate my mother for something she had no control over. Maybe I should spend time with her later.

This would be a good opportunity to get her hints on how she'd react when I tell her about Richard and I...well, if I tell her. I'm still at odds about this, sue me.

"Sure m-"

"Roseanna! Baby, the guests are almost here."

I slowly shut my eyes and willed the tears away as his voice filled the kitchen.

Richard swiftly entered the kitchen and paused by the door as he saw me and my mother.

Oh how awkward is this....

He cleared his throat and looked at everywhere but me, making me feel slightly more hurt that he couldn't even keep eye contact with me after what he did, but you know what? Screw it and screw him.

"Did I disturb something?" He asked.

I scoffed and yanked my hand out of my mom's grasp.

"No you didn't Richard" I spat out his name in disgust. "Mom, I'm going to get ready."

I brushed past him, ignoring the sparks I felt between us.

"Danica! Don't be so rude to Richard." Mom yelled out to me and I stopped dead in my tracks as anger took over me.

"He isn't my Dad so I don't care." I said then continued my walk to my room.

Now I'm going to dread going to this damn dinner and I don't even know who's coming over.

"Danica! The guests are here! Come down as soon as you're ready." "Alright mom!"

I added the finishing touches to my makeup which was my eyeliner and nude lipstick.

Satisfied with my look and my knee length white dress with my nude heels and gold earrings, I opened my door and stepped out, only to hit my head against a chest.

"What the hell?" I said and looked up to see a familiar face.

"Hey birthday girl!" The person said and I recognized his voice immediately.

"Beta?" I asked stupidly, as I realized I didn't know his name.

He chuckled.

"It's Aiden. Nice to see you again birthday girl."

I rolled my eyes playfully and slapped his arm.

"It's Danica genius and why are you here?"

"I know your name Sweetheart and I'm here on some dinner with my parents." Aiden said obviously irritated.

I began to laugh softly at his facial expression but then I stopped when it finally hit me.

Oh...

"I'm guessing our parents must be friends. This will be interesting." He added with a wink.

"Why were you even up here?" I asked as we walked down the hall side by side.

Aiden shrugged. "I took your scent so I came to see if you actually lived here. We never really spoke after your step-dad almost ripped my arm off at the party." He rubbed his shoulder with a scowl on his face.

"I'm so sorry about that. He's just...overprotective of me." I explained. Well, it technically isn't a lie.

"It's alright baby doll. Dad's will be dads."

"Yeah but he isn't mine..." I mumbled so softly there was no way he could hear me.

We chatted until we got to the dining room. There sat at the table, my mom Aiden's mother and father and Richard, who sniffed the air and his head snapped up to Aiden and I who were still standing side by side. Richard was glaring hard at Aiden who seemed unbothered by the death glare he was receiving.

This is going to be one hell of a night.

Chapter 5

"So Beta Aiden, how is has our pack been treating you so far since you've arrived?"

Aiden shifted in his seat next to me and looked up at my mom with a gorgeous smile.

"Well, first off ma'am you can just call me Aiden and it's been good. I mean, I have just been mainly doing perimeter checks with your Alpha and Beta to get a good enough pattern collection of when and why these rogues disturb your pack so I haven't had much time so socialize. Honestly, you were the first to actually reach out to me."

Let me clear up some stuff just in case you're confused. Aiden, his Alpha and a few other members of his pack are still visiting mine since my birthday party to help with a little rogue situation. It's never major but our guards keep sensing rogues and we can never pinpoint them so Aiden and his pack are helping us

Now, currently we are having dinner with him and his parents while Richard is sending him death glares from across the table.

"Richard, you okay hunny?" My mom as she laid her hand on top of his and I looked away to avoid seeing the sight. Aiden nudged my arm and I glanced at him. He tapped the side of his head and I nodded briefly as he created a mind link between us.

"Everything alright birthday girl?"

"Yeah, of course. " I replied to Aiden, trying my hardest to believe my own lie.

"What are you two mind linking about?" Richard asked as he took a hard swig of his wine.

I looked at him and sent a him a 'Piss off' look but of course, Richard ignored it and sent me a fake smile.

"Oh Aaron aren't the two of them cute? You know sweetie, Aiden would have been lucky to have a sweet girl like you for his mate." Aidan's mom squealed out as she clapped her hands.

"Mom..." Aiden said in a warning tone and pinched the bridge of his nose. I giggled and nudged his shoulder then sent a wink his way. "Racheal, stop embarrassing the boy." Aiden's father, Aaron said with a smirk.

I felt the table shake as Richard's fist went onto it with a hard force. All of our eyes went to him and he chuckled dryly.

"Pesky mosquitoes..." He mumbled.

"Oh speaking of mates" My mom added and looked to me with a smile. "Did you ever find yours hunny? I forgot to ask. *

My breath hitched and I found it hard to breathe again. How the hell do I answer this? 'Oh yeah mom and he's your fucking husband???' Like that answer would be practical. I can't say that to her in front of Aiden and his family. This is private business and besides, I doubt this would be a good time anyway despite the fact we have company.

Richard looked at me with pleading eyes and I knew he'd probably link me right now if he could but I put my walls up. I plastered a fake smile on my face and shook my head.

"No. I didn't mom."

The words made me feel like throwing up but I kept a cool facade and tried to sell my lie

Richard on the other hand, was obviously seething on the other side of the table but I only knew because I could feel his anger through our link. His face was as calm as could be and also slightly relieved and I just wanted to claw his freaking face off.

"Awe sweetie. Well don't worry, you'll find him soon enough." My mom consoled me and I nodded and drank some of my juice.

"Don't worry Danica. When you find your mate, he's going to love you so much and you both will be happier than ever." Racheal said to me as she smiled to her mate. The amount of love that radiated off the both of them alone made me feel like crying more than her words.

"Enough about this. Time for desert! You guys ready?" I changed topic swiftly and everyone nodded. Standing up, I took my plate and Aiden's as well as Racheal's and carried them to the kitchen.

"Help Danice Richard." I heard m mother mumble and I cursed silently. The kitchen for swung open and his scent invaded my nostrils more than oxygen itself.

I sat the plates down on the counter and soon a second pair joined mine as he copied my actions.

"Danica..."

"No Richard. Don't just don't."

"I don't want to hurt you like this." He whispered.

"You may not want too, but you are so you are free to shove it and get away from me."

"Danica please. You're my mate, I love you and the last thing I want is to see you suffer like this but what choice do we have?" Richard whispered again to me to avoid having anyone hearing him. Times like this is when enhanced hearing sucks.

I faced Richard and rolled my eyes.

"Allow me to get you a dictionary so you can find out the meaning of love. Richard, we wouldn't be in this position if it wasn't for you!" My voice raising near the end and the tears escaped my eyes.

"What's taking you two so I- Danica! What's wrong baby?" My mother came into the kitchen and ran to my side but I pushed her away and ran out of the kitchen back door.

I was so unfocused and distraught I couldn't even shift into my wolf. A light drizzle Began to fall as I ran into the forest towards my Haven. The only place I could release all this pent up frustration and pain.

He loves me he says...He has no choice says, but Richard has obviously made a choice. He made he choice to let me suffer and stay with my mother. I had also made

somewhat of a choice; to reject him when I get the strength and let them be..but that doesn't stop it from hurting.

My heel broke and I tripped and fell. All my determination to do anything was gone.

The little strength I had. Gone.

My heart....shredded.

I sat on the Cold forest floor and bawled my eyes out.

I cried for my mother, myself, Richard and I felt like that was all I could do. In this moment I felt helpless and weak.

A pair of hands wrapped around me and I couldn't even move to fight off whoever it was.

"Shhh, It's okay sweetheart."

I leaned into Auden's arms and continued to cry until I felt like I couldn't anymore.

My entire life is a disaster.