

My Step-Dad Is My Mate

Chapter 11

Aiden's POV

"How the hell did they get onto pack territory without being stopped?!" I growled to the 8 guards which were standing in front of me with their heads low.

"HOW?!" I asked again, running out of patience and gaining irritancy from their lack of replies.

"Beta" One of the guards named said, "We were on the north side of the territory Sir, tracking down a rogue scent which was abnormally close to the pack."

I pinched the bridge of my nose. "And that required every one of you? Not ONE of you thought maybe you should stay back?"

They all looked at each other but didn't say anything.

"Get out of my face!" I exclaimed and they scattered. I was on edge. Danica wanted to talk to her mom and that asshole alone so she asked me to leave. Leaving her alone with an emotional mother and manipulative mate was the last thing I wanted, but she said would link me if she needed me.

I entered my office in the pack house and laid down on my couch. God, you have no idea how much I wanted to kiss her. In the end, I feel like I failed her, like I didn't protect her enough from him but I don't know what else I can do. I'm surprised at her resistance to him. Most mates can't stand to be away from each other for more than a minute but Danica avoids him at all costs.

Well, her birthday wasn't that long ago so the mate bond is still a bit fresh and she isn't marked so that's a factor too.

I wonder about my mate sometimes, I still haven't found her and now, I wish I never do. I like Danica a lot but I bet that was pretty obvious huh? She doesn't see it though or maybe she does, I don't know. I hope she likes me too because I want to make her happy. Happy like a mate should make her...if she lets me but I'm not going to rush her into anything. She can have as much time as she needs to settle this problem between her, her mother and Richard, I'll still be here for her. A knock on the door startled me

and at first I thought it was Danica but she doesn't know where my office is and that scent isn't hers.

"Enter."

The door opened and a member of the pack peeked her head in and unfortunate to say, she was also my ex-girlfriend. How ironic and cliché of her pop up after she saw me with another girl.

"Hey Aiden." Miranda said as she came into my room then shut the door. Oh this isn't going to be good.

"What can do I for you Miranda?"

She shrugged and stood beside my couch that I was still laying down on and rubbed her hands together.

"I um..wanted to say congratulations on finding your mate."

I bit back a laugh. She knows damn well that Danica isn't my mate because she and a few other members heard what went down after Richard made his amazing appearance. This is just Miranda trying to find out information aka being slick.

"She isn't my mate." I said with a "duh' tone.

"Oh" She said and sat down near my feet. I opened one eye and peeked at her.

"I'm sorry but I didn't say you could sit."

Miranda threw her hands up and slammed them on her laps. "This is ridiculous Aiden. We had something so good-"

"Oh God." I exclaimed and covered my face with my hands.

"- and we had something so strong. She isn't your mate! Why are you with her?"

"Because" I started "1 .she isn't you, 2.1 don't like you anymore and 3, why wouldn't I be with her? I was with you wasn't I and you weren't my mate so what point are you trying to make?"

"I love you..." Miranda mumbled, "I gave up everything for you!"

" didn't ask you to reject Damon for me!" I shouted and swiftly got up from my laying position and glared at Miranda.

Yeah, she rejected her mate for me a few years aback and honestly I felt bad for her after we broke up. Now she has no one to expect to find and get that long lasting love from.

"But I did reject him Aiden! All because I loved you! And after all this time, I still do..."

I sighed and rubbed the sides of my head as I felt a headache coming on.

"Please leave Miranda."

I heard her gasp then snuffle and the sound her retreading steps then slam of my door told me she left.

What am I going to do with her?

Chapter 12

"WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU MEAN 2 YEARS AGO?" My mother yelled in Richard's face. I've never really heard my mother yell that often so this was kind of a shocker.

Richard sighed and hung his head low.

"I've known since you first introduced me to he-"

He didn't have time to finish his sentence since my mom slapped him in the face.

"Don't hit him!" I yelled before I could stop myself. What was that? Oh, must be the pull.

My mother turned to face me with a hard glare and teary eyes. "How long have you known Danica? Hmm? How long have YOU been lying to me?"

"If what your asking is if I knew since we met then no. He didn't tell me either. I found out on my birthday. Mom, I wanted to tell you but I just couldn't."

"You couldn't? YOU COULDN'T? HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?" She screamed in my face and I pushed her back.

"Shut up! Just shut up! You don't know what it's like to see your mate do romantic shit with someone else right in your face? I didn't tell you because I tried to keep you happy! I tried to prevent you from going back to how you after daddy died-"

When I mentioned my dad, she cringed.

"-1 wanted to prevent you from those suicidal nights and those nights of crying! Who was there for you? Who helped you survive mom? Mel! It was all me! Richard made you happy and I wanted you to start that way because I know you I-loved him. So yeah, I didn't tell you and I'm sorry but I did it for you and it just didn't work out the way I planned." I took a deep breath after my long rant and wiped the tears away from my face.

My mom stared at me for a minute then sat down with her head on her knees, bawling. My heart broke a little. This is exactly what I didn't want to happen.

"Roseanna...-"

"Don't Richard" she exclaimed, "just don't."

"Danica, please." He pleaded to me as he looked me in the eyes. "I didn't want to hurt either one of you."

I shook my head in disbelief. He was guilty as hell and still trying to play the victim act.

"Richard maybe you didn't really want to hurt anyone" I admitted, "But you are not stupid. You knew this was bound to happen and you did nothing to prevent it and I will never forgive you for that." I finished, calmly.

His expression held one of hurt and anguish and it broke my heart. I mean, he is my mate. I still care about him despite how distant I am and how much I avoid him. It just disgusted me how slimey he was being so why would I let myself get close to that?

I heard sniffles near us and I turned my head to see my mother standing and heading for the door.

"Mom, where are you going?" I asked, slightly worried she might do something stupid like she tried to do many times after Dad died.

"Just going for a run...Danica, make sure you come home. Richard, come get your clothes because you are not staying at my house." She said then swiftly left, letting the doors bang behind her.

"Heh...I guess this is the end." He said humorlessly.

"Not yet." I said and blinked back the tears that threatened to fall. Once I do this, I can't take it back. That'll be it. I'll be done.

"You don't mean..."

I nodded and picked up a knife from the table Aiden and I were suppose to have dinner on. This is how a rejection process goes down; you cut each other's palm, to mix the

blood together then say the words of rejection which forces your wolves to separate from one another. In a way, it's kind of like the joining a pack ceremony but different words.

"Let's get this over with."

Richard hung his head low and for a minute, I almost wanted to kiss his pain away.

Almost.

Hesitantly, he took the knife and looked at it for a moment.

"Can I do one thing before we end this?"

"What Richard?" I asked, annoyed.

He sighed then shrugged. "I guess you can't hate me more than you already do."

I furrowed my brows, confused at what he saying but it all became clear to me when Richard's lips were suddenly against mine and saying I felt lost would be an understatement.

Kissing your true mate is nothing like I ever thought it would be. The tingles that coursed through my body and on my lips were mind melting.

Richard's finger was under my chin, tilting my head more upwards to allow him better access due to our height difference.

Just as my arms were about automatically about to wrap around his neck, I snapped out of my daze and pushed him off of me.

What the hell is wrong with me? God, I just let him take my first kiss. I felt disgusted with myself and weak.

"Asshole." I muttered and the sound of the door quietly closing alerted my attention.

Looking over, I didn't see anyone so I assumed it was the wind but the wind can't move a door that heavy that easily.

I saw Aiden's head passing by in front of the window and I gasped. Fuck, he saw.

Richard on the other hand was smirking his ass off and I got pissed. "You smelled him coming didn't you?" I asked and he shrugged with a smile on his face.

Since Richard was an older male, some of his senses were more enhanced like his sight, hearing and as you can see, smell

"You are such an asshole!" I yelled then grabbed the knife out of his hand. I drew the sharp blade across my palm, wincing a little then handed it back to him.

"Do it. I'm done with you."

He looked shocked for a moment then shook his head.

"You don't want to do this Dani."

I shook my head, "Yeah I do actually and it's Danica Monroe. You're going to need to say that when you accept my rejection." I said with a smirk and I could see the last bit of hope he had die away.

Richard had stared at the knife in his hand and threw it on the ground. "No. I won't do it."

"Stop being a fucking child Richard." I rolled my eyes.

"You need me! I need you! Don't you see what happens to mates when they separate? You yourself saw what happened to your mother when her mate died!"

I cringed. "My father died, that's different."

"It's not different because we're about to do the same thing. Severe something so precious and golden. Die to one another."

I bit my bottom lip. Why does he have to make his so difficult? He can have whoever he wants after we do this.

"I'm sorry.". He said and I raised a brow.

"For what?"

Richard sighed and fisted his hands. "This."

In the blink of an eye on Richard appeared to me as a blur, a result of him using his wolf speed.

What the hell is he!n that moment, I felt a piercing pain in my neck, causing me to scream out in pain. I flailed my arms wildly, hitting Richard multiple times against the chest.

"WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?"

"I stopped you from making a bad decision." He said.

I rubbed my neck furiously as it burned like it was set on fire. I let out a ear piercing scream mixed with a growl as my wolf side fought with my human half, almost like I was at war within my own body.

My vision blurred and I fell to my knees. I looked up to see Richard, but he was gone. I tried to call for help, but my voice wouldn't go above a whisper and my body welcomed the darkness that took over me.

Chapter 13

I fought against the feeling to just sleep some more and forced my eyes open, only to close them again due to the amount of light that flooded the room.

Slowly, I opened them again, giving my eyes time to adjust to the room then looked around. It looked like a hospital room and damn, it smelled like it too. God, I hate hospitals.

"Dani! You're awake." A soft voice said to me and I identified it as my mother's.

"Mom." I croaked out due to the fact my throat was dryer than the Sahara desert.

"Here." She said and handed me a glass of water which was near my bed on a stand. I greedily grabbed the glass and gulped down the water. My throat felt immediately better and I handed mom back the glass.

"What happened?" I asked her as I slowly sat up, noticing the 3 needles in my arm causing me to cringe. I hate needles too.

"You blacked out because of the mark." Mom said, still looking kind of upset about the entire situation she had just learned about.

I touched my neck subconsciously and the place I touched, hurt like hell. He really did it. He marked me. Asshole.

"God, that hurts." I mumbled and put my hand down.

"He marked you against your will" Mom said, "That's why it hurts so much. You didn't accept it."

I nodded in understanding and didn't say anything as my mind wandered to Aiden. I knew he saw Richard and I kissing, I just hoped he'd believe me if I told him it didn't mean anything, that he kissed me. But that 'he kissed me' line is pretty cliché right? Well, it's all I have for now.

"I'm sorry." My mom said softly and I opened my mouth to speak but she continued.

"I'm a horrible mother. How did I not see it? I've had a..mate. I should of known you and Richard were mated. And I married him and...Oh my God. I can't imagine how much that must of hurt you Dani. How much I must have hurt you this time. I'm so sorry. I'm so so sorry." By the end, my mother was in a full on bawling mode and I felt like crying too. "Hey" I said and she looked at me. "It's okay mom. It really is. We can't change the past, only work to make a better future. And I'm sorry for not telling you the truth."

My mom rose from her seat near my bed and gave me a gentle hug. Aiden's scent filled my nostrils and I peeked over my mom's shoulder to see him standing by the door. I'm so going to talk to him before he gets the wrong idea about Richard and me.

"Mom, can I talk to Aiden alone?" I whispered in her ear and she nodded a bit then pulled away.

Mom sent me a small smile then exited the room, also sending Aiden a little smile.

Aiden stood still by the door with his arms folded and staring at me. Oh my God I feel so self-conscious. I mean I am in the hospital and probably look like something God spit up but damn.

"H-hey." I stuttered and mentally slapped myself.

"How are you feeling?" He asked me.

I shrugged."Been better."

Aiden shook his head. "Fuck it." He mumbled and rushed to my side, embracing me in a right hug.

"I was so worried about you Dani. I thought he had killed you or something." Aiden whispered into my hair as he held onto me tight and I felt myself melt into his warmth.

"I'm okay. I thought you were mad at me." I whispered and Aiden abruptly let me go, looking at me confused.

"Why would I?"

I looked away.

"I know you saw Richard and I kissing..."

Aiden sighed. "Yeah I saw but I saw he kissed you so I'm not going to stress about it. I can only imagine how good it must feel to kiss your mate and I'm glad you got to experience that, despite the fact he was a grade A asshole."

I giggled at his little insult.

"I regret it..I wanted you to be my first kiss." I mumbled as heat rose to my cheeks.

Aiden released me from his hold and sat next to my feet with a smile on his face.

"Really?"

I nodded and fiddled with my fingers.

"I may not be your first kiss but I would love to be your second" Aiden inched closer to me, "Third" He was now just a few mere inches away from my face, his eyes flicking down to my lips as he licked his, "and your last."

"Okay, how is the patient doing?"

I leaned back fast as hell to see a doctor entering the room. Damn, again?

Aiden sighed once again and got off the bed, standing next to it and nodded to the doctor as a way of saying 'Hello'. His relaxed look he had with me was now gone and replaced with a more professional and serious one. I guess because she is a member of the pack. Betas I swear. "Oh...I interrupted something didn't I ?" The doctor said with a blush. "No." "Yes." Aiden and I replied at the same time and I glared at him. "Don't make her feel more uncomfortable." I said to him via our link and he snorted out loud, making the doctor look at him with wide eyes. Aiden coughed awkwardly and looked around the room.

"Okay well. How are you feeling Danica? Any pains? Oh I'm Dr.Idris." "Oh well nice to meet you and yeah my neck hurts really bad when I touch it. What's going on? Is it the mark?"

"Well, yes. You were marked against your consent is that right?"

I nodded and Dr.Idris looked at the clipboard in her hands.

"Well, as you should know a marking is something that must be done with the consent of the receiving female aka you in the case. Now, since you didn't accept your body is fighting against it but fighting a marking is a very difficult thing to do so it caused you to black out due to the over shock."

I took in her words like a drink of water and I felt like I was choking. I can't believe Richard would do this to me.

Well, he is a slimy little shit so I should have seen this coming.

"Is there any way to get rid of the mark?" I asked and she nodded fervently.

"Well two ways. In the early 1700s, vampire blood was used to get rid of unwanted marks by rubbing it on it but since vampires are scarce and the procedure can also be deadly, the only choice you have is to let someone mark you over the mark."

Aiden coughed and I opened my eyes wide. Someone has to mark over it? Who the hell am I going to find to do that? I mean I would ask Aiden but, he has a mate somewhere out there and I wouldn't want to ruin his chances with her by him marking me no matter how much he may like me. When he finds her, he won't remember those feelings, they'll be gone.

"And there is no other way?" I asked again just to be sure and she shook her head.

"I'm sorry. Get some rest and take 2 of these pills, Naproxen. It will help with the pain you might feel within the next hour or so."

I nodded and took the pill bottle from her.

"Beta." She nodded to Aiden in respect then left the room.

"Just when I thought I would've gotten my kiss.." He mumbled and I laughed

"Third times a charm." I winked and Aiden bursted out in a full grin. "Well that third time will have to come another time. Take the pill and get some rest sweetheart.

"I'll be back to check on you later, I promise."

"Thank you for being here Aiden."

"Where else would I be?" He replied and I smiled shyly. Aiden leaned down near me and placed a lingering kiss on my forehead then exited the room, leaving me in a blushing hot mess.

Who would've thought a kiss would make me feel so...baffled?

I wonder where Richard ran off to and why. He blocked me off so I couldn't link him but I could feel his presence so I knew he was at least alive.

My hand absentmindedly went to my mark, making me hiss in pain as it started to burn again.

I'll get rid of this one way or the other.

Chapter 14

Aiden's POV

"Alpha. We need to find this guy. He put her in the damn hospital!" "Calm down Aiden I have 20 trackers out there scouting for him. Whatever they find, they come back to us. Just relax." Kaden (A/N: Sorry if I gave him a different name previously) said to me and tried to lay his hand on my shoulder but I shrugged him off.

"Yes Sir." I said gruffly but Kaden rolled his eyes.

"Why are you always so formal with me?"

"Because you're my Alpha?" I said in a "duh' tone.

"Yeah but I'm your brother first, Aid. Remember that."

Kaden was my older brother by father.

"I just feel like I'm failing her all over again." I mumbled and Kaden's face lit up."

"Oh my God, she's the girl isn't she?" He all but screamed and I winced at how close he was to me when he did that.

"Yeah. That's Danica." I said with a small smile

"Look at you all whipped and shit." Kaden exclaimed then bursted out laughing, making me chuckle and shove his shoulder.

"I'm not whipped I just...really like this girl Kade."

"Remember, you have a mate out there Aid. You can't fall for her when you might end up hurting her all over again in the end."

"Who says I can't reject my mate for her?" I said and he shrugged. "Rejecting a mate is not easy. Especially when you see her for the first time, rejection will be far from the last thing on your mind." He told me and I sighed. He was right but I have strong feelings for Danica but I also don't want to hurt her. She's had enough of that.

"What do I do?" I asked Kaden. In a way, I didn't want to have this conversation with him. His mate died last year and only because of his dedication to the pack and my support, is why he's alive today an doing well but I know he misses her and weighing all my girl problems on him makes me messed up, but if I held back on telling him, he'd just force me anyway.

"Don't date her. Be her best friend or something but don't put her in a position that might bring her right back to stage 1 again. She's strong that's for sure but a person can only go through so much before they fall."

I nodded slowly in understanding, "Thanks bro."

Kaden nodded at me and we did a fist pound. "You know I got your back."

"Hey I'm about to go check on her, wanna come with?" I asked but he shook his head.

"I'm a bit behind on some files right now and I paused to give advice to your dumb ass so maybe another time Aiden." He added with a chuckle and I punched his shoulder.

"Alright alright Mr.Alpha, see ya later after perimeter check." I nodded to him then exited the office, his words still echoing in my mind. Danica. I really hoped to be something with her.

"Hey Aiden."

I groaned in annoyance and turned to face Miranda.

"Yes Miranda? Oh I'm fine and you? Good? Okay. Oh Danica is fine yeah. You gotta go? I gotta go too, bye." I ended off with a smile then turned to leave.

I heard her growl lowly then stomp away and I released a breath of relief.

Thank you Goddess.

As I made my way to the medical wing of the pack house, I knocked lightly on Danica's room but she didn't answer. Slowly, I opened the door to reveal her fast asleep in the bed. I crept in quietly and stood by her hospital bed

"I won't hurt you." I whispered more to myself as I moved strands of her hair from her face.

She moved a little then let out a soft snort, almost making me burst out laughing. Her mother was also in the room in a chair in the corner of the room, staring at me intently.

"You really care about her don't you?" She asked me and I nodded, making my way over to her.

"I love my daughter Jaden-"

"Aiden" I corrected.

"Same thing." She shrugged and I fought back the urge to glare. "I love my daughter and I made mistakes with her than I wish I could take back what I did but I can't. I can only beg for her forgiveness and learn from my mistakes. I'm aware you don't have a mate, is that right?"

I eyed her cautiously then nodded again.

"Okay. Don't hurt her, please. Because she will kill you and I cut you up and put you in my freezer." She finished nonchalant then got up from her seat, smiling at me like she didn't just threaten my life 5 seconds ago and strolled to the bathroom.

These girls are crazy.

Chapter 15

Danica's POV

Two Weeks Later

"Be careful Dani!" My mom yelled to me I ran out of the house to school.

"Yeah I know." I replied through our link, not bothering to strain my voice on yelling.

I've been doing make up work to catch up on the school work I've been missing. Today marked about a week or two since I've been back and I didn't want to go but I needed to graduate. I just hope they don't make me double up another year because of my absence.

Recently I haven't heard anything about Richard and I honestly just hoped he would stay gone.

Although, I need to still reject him but I assumed if maybe we just stayed away from one another and maybe if I found someone else in the future, the bond would break on it's own, but then again that was just my assumption.

I hoped it was right. My mind has been on him lately and I kinda missed him. Damn mark. It still hurt to touch it because I refuse to accept it but when it itches and I can't scratch it, oh man that's hell.

As I walked along the sidewalk, a beeping of a car was heard behind me so I turned around and it was a black BMW. I eyes it suspiciously as it pulled it up next to me.

Relief flooded me as the window rolled down and I saw Aiden

"God you scared me!" I exclaimed and he laughed.

"Get in, we seem to be going the same way." He said with a shrug and I gladly got in and secured on my seatbelt.

"It's been a while since I've seen you, how are you?" Aiden asked me and I smiled at the sincerity in his voice.

Since I left Aiden's pack, we haven't seen much of each other since he's back to his usual busyness of pack duties and I'm focusing on school so there hasn't been much time for us to spend together.

But despite that we've been good friends above it all.

"I'm good Aiden." I replied and raised his brow while staring intently at the road.

"You sure?" He asked and I nodded, reassuring him.

"Have you found him?" I asked after a brief millisecond of silence and Aiden tensed. His pack Alpha and mine have been working together to find Richard, hence the reason Aiden is on our territory.

"No. We had a lead but it turned out blank. He's an older male which makes him more intelligent in hiding his tracks. Everything we find we follow then nothing." Aiden said with a defeated sigh and I felt my eye twitch.

"It's okay. It's not your fault." I said but my words didn't seem to help as his defeated look didn't even falter.

"Has the mark bothered you?"

"No, not really" I said, resisting the urge to touch it, "It itches a lot at times and burns on random but besides that, it's good."

Aiden seemed satisfied with my answer and didn't pester more on the subject, but my curiosity was suddenly peaked as a thought occurred. "Have you found your mate yet?"

Again, Aiden tensed and shook his head.

"Don't you want to find her?"

"No." Aiden said suddenly and I rolled my eyes.

"Why not?" I asked cautiously but by the way Aiden looked at me through the corner of his eye, I felt like I already knew.

Aiden stopped the car and parked on the side of the street.

"I want you Danica, just you. I've liked you for so long and I felt like you never saw it. At some point, I avoided you because of some my bro- Alpha gave me to just stay friends with you but I can't. Please, just give me a chance."

My eyes were as wide as saucers as I took in his words. He literally threw the friendship card in the shredder.

"What about your mate?" I asked and he shrugged.

"I could reject her so we could be together. Who knows? She probably has someone else or is in a whole other state or continent. I may never find her."

"It doesn't matter where she is or who she might be with" I yelled as my anger flared, "You can't do that to her because if you do, then you are no better than Richard." I finished with a disgusted tone then hurriedly got out of his car and jogged down the road, ignoring Aiden's calls for me to come back.