

My Step-Dad Is My Mate

Chapter 16

"I wonder if she's fucked her step-dad recently."

"She's such a freak."

"Ha, just proves the Goddess doesn't love every one of us."

These were just a few of the things I've been hearing for over a week since I came back to school. Eventually, words around that Danica "The Freak" Monroe was mated to her mother's husband and wanna guess what happened? The story got bigger and bigger until it reached to the point where they began to say I slept with him and boy did it get worse when they saw me marked. I would be a liar if I said it didn't bother me and make me want to just leave sometimes but people will talk and I can't control what is being said. I know the truth, those who matter know the truth and that is all that matters

I turned up my music in my earphones. My new favor song Castle by Halsey was playing and I gladly allowed myself to be pulled into the lyrics of the music.

I'm heading straight for the Castle

They want to make me the Queen

But there's an old man sitting on the throne now saying that I probably shouldn't be so mean.

As I entered my class, my teacher nodded to me and I nodded back, taking my seat in the front of the class.

"Now class" The teacher began, "Today we find out which of you are eligible to graduate in three weeks. I'll be calling out the names, whoever isn't called means that you repeat this class next year. Listen carefully."

I crossed my fingers and prayed to the Goddess that my name would be called.

"Avery Michaels, Wade Killan, Iris Thomas, Summer Haides....."

Small cheers and high fives erupted around the class as multiple heard their names being called. Mine was yet to be called and as the number of whose uncalled grew smaller, I began to slowly lose hope.

"Skylar Quinn, Kellan Grey, Danica Monroe....."

"HELL YES!" I jumped up and shouted then quickly sat back down and blushed profusely from my outburst. My teacher smirked at me then continued to call the names on his paper.

I did it..I'm going to graduate!

After school finished, I rushed home to tell my mom the good news. Things weren't exactly 100%. In some ways, it was awkward to be around her and felt weird but I'm glad I still have her and that she never disowned me.

As I walked along the sidewalk, my mark began to burn and itch like hell. Trying my best to ignore it, I continued to walk as quickly as I could to home. Despite the burning from my mark, my spirits were high and nothing could ruin it for me.

I rushed into my house and dropped my bag at the door.

"Mom! Mom! Where are you! I have great news!"

"Kitchen Dani!"

I used my enhanced speed and bolted into the kitchen and frown as soon as I came in.

"Why is he here?" I asked, pointing to Aiden who was casually sipping orange juice without a care in the world, like we didn't just have a disagreement this morning.

"Oh Jaden-" my mom began but got cut off by Aiden.

"Aiden."

"Same thing" Mom shrugged, "Aiden came over to see you."

"Okay then well mom I have news!" I squealed and clapped my hands. "What?" She asked then took a gulp of her juice.

"I'm graduating!" I screamed and the juice she had taken a gulp of was now on Aiden as she spit it out and began to scream with me.

"Oops, sorry Jaden."

Aiden groaned in disgust.

"It's Ai- you know what forget it."

"I'm so proud of you Dani!" My mom exclaimed and gave me a hug. "Thanks mom." I said with a smile and pulled away from her embrace then face Aiden who had a sad smile on his face.

"What did you want to talk about?"

I hoped he wasn't going to mention this morning when I have just got the best news I've gotten in a real long time.

"Well..." He said and scratched the back of his neck.

"What is it Aiden?" I asked with a tilt of my head

"We found Richard."

Chapter 17

"Remember to keep calm and say whatever you need to say quickly. My Alpha didn't authorize this so." tuned Aiden out as I got lost in my own thoughts. I'm going to see Richard again. I'm going to face him again. And shit, this mark itches. As Aiden and I walked down the metal corridors of his pack's prison, my nerves got more on edge. Could I be able to even speak to him? I honestly didn't expect to even see him again but look at this. My mother wanted to come but I asked her to stay back. Being here with Richard plus her would be a little too awkward for comfort besides I know she can't handle seeing him again, that's why Aiden didn't say anything about Richard till I got home, he knows she can't handle it. "Danica!" I heard Aiden yell and I snapped out of my trance, almost tripping over my own foot as I caught my balance in the last second. "Yeah?" "This is his cell." Aiden said as he nodded his head towards the large metal door that was in front of us. "Why is this door bigger than the others?" I asked as One of the guards who was on duty, opened the door for us to enter. "Its a torture chamber." He replied as he stepped through the entrance. I gasped. "You haven't been..." "No" Aiden replied quickly, " wouldn't do that. You'd feel it." I sighed in relief. As much as I hated Richard, a part of me wouldn't want to see him beaten up and bruised. We walked through the small narrow corridor until we approached another door but this one was smaller than the main door. "Are you ready? We can leave right now if you want." Aiden asked me once more and I nodded, taking a deep breath. The door clanked and the light sound of metal echoed around me as he pushed it open. I gasped at the sight before me. Richard was strung up with both his hands and feet bounded by chains, which by the particular shine of it, had a bit of silver in it. Since it wasn't a lot of silver, he wouldn't really feel pain but it will prevent him from shifting into his wolf.

"Richard..." I mumbled in shock of seeing him. He had no visible bruises besides a cut on his forehead which had dried blood on it. "Is he knocked out or something?" I asked as I slowly stepped into the room, staring at Richard intently. He had made no movements since I came in besides the steady moving of his chest indicating to me that he was for sure was alive. "He's weak because of the mild silver in his system so yeah he might be." Aiden replied. As I drew closer to Richard, my skin began to burn and I stepped back abruptly with a hiss. Damn mark. "You haven't accepted it I see." I looked up to Richard as he was watching me with cold eyes. "No and I'm never going too." "Then I guess you have to take a seat and wait for the next couple of years to pass before the bond breaks." He said and I glared. Well, at least my theory was right, the bond would break itself over time but years? The Moon Goddess is a serious bitch. "Just do the rejection Richard. Save yourself and me the pain. You can find someone else. Someone your own age. Just let me go." I pleaded but he shook his head slowly, letting his dry dirty locks fall in front of his face. "Sure I can find someone else but I will never find you again."

"Get over yourself Richard" I said with a roll of my eyes, "Now is not the time or place for you to try to even sweet talk me." Aiden snorted behind me and quickly faked a cough to cover it, causing me to smile and shake my head. "You two are a thing aren't you?" Richard asked and I scoffed. "N-Yes we are." I covered up quickly and kept a cool facade, hoping he didn't notice my little slip up. Aiden and I aren't a thing, obviously but I won't miss the opportunity to mess with Richard's head. A low series of growls escaped from Richard's mouth and I could literally feel Aiden smirking hard. "Danica. We need to go. The Alpha is coming back." Aiden said in a rushed tone and I nodded, turning to leave. "You will never love him like you love me!" Richard called out and I ignored him, rushing down the narrow corridor while Aiden closed the door. The two guards from before had opened the main doors and let us out. "2 minutes Beta." One of them said and Aiden groaned. "I know I know." He replied and grabbed my arm, dragging me out of the prison and to his car. "Can I come back here? I wasn't finished." I asked, hoping he'd say yes.

"We'll see Dani." Aiden replied. We got to his car and opened the door for me. "Get in quickly." He said as he made his way to the driver's side. I put my foot in and was about to get in completely when I took a whiff of the sweetest scent I'd never smelled. It was like strawberries mixed with the smell of fresh rain or dew. God, what is that? "Danica! Come on!" Aiden's yelling snapped me out of my sniffing and I reluctantly got in the car. "You okay?" He asked and I nodded fervently, but I was far from okay. I was fine but I wasn't. I felt flustered and slightly away from reality. That scent was simply heavenly and I don't have a damn clue what it was. I shifted uncomfortably in my seat as I suddenly felt the urge to shift but I tried my best to hold it back until we were at least in my pack territory. "Won't the Alpha smell we were there?" I asked and Aiden shrugged. "I've had the guards take care of that. Kaden is strict at times especially when he's in a bad mood so I didn't want to take the chance." "Kaden? Wow you guys have like the same name." I licked my lips since my mouth now felt dry as hell. What the hell is going on? "Yeah.." Aiden chuckled but it was pretty dry, "Coincidence right?" eyed him

suspiciously then nodded slowly and focused on the passing trees, my mind going back to that scent I smelled. I will find out what that is.

Chapter 18

Kaden's POV

I cracked my neck as I stepped out of my light blue BMW and looked around. My eyes narrowed at the quickly retreading car I identified as my brother's.

What trouble has he started now? He was with someone, the particular scent stood out among the others which I already knew. It was ...sweet like. Interesting, I haven't smelled any new scents here since those wolves invaded my land and this smelled nothing like those 3 (Roseanna, Richard, Danica).

It was taunting me. Now I felt like I was surrounded in a bubble and the only air I breathed was that amazing scent.

As Aid's car disappeared down the dirt path, I was ready to follow it but I was stopped by one of my guards.

"Alpha. We have Alpha Iris and his daughter awaiting on your permission to enter the land." I groaned in annoyance and ran my hand through my hair.

"Tell them I'm dead." I said and walked up to the pack house.

I have been avoiding Alpha Iris and his bratty daughter for months now using my piles and piles of miraculously created lies and excuses.

Why you ask? Because Iris expects me to join our packs together to form one and the only way to do that is by marriage. Marriage to his daughter, Ilene. But you know what I say? Fuck no. I lost my mate and I don't want any other female in my life. Besides, I don't like Ilene, she's annoying like a fly and as dumb as a rock. Ilene has a mate yet she won't accept him and the poor bastard is too lovesick to just move on. Why doesn't she accept him? Power. Ilene is a greedy brat with a father who is in way to over his head.

As I entered my large office in the pack house, I sat down on my chair and leaned back. I haven't even glanced at my folders yet and I already have a headache.

But no matter the headache, I still couldn't get that scent out of my head and Aiden knows who it belongs too. Obviously since it was leaving in his car.

"Aid." I called out via our link but he blocked me out. Great. I dug under my tons of paperwork and got my phone out to give him a call since he isn't available via link.

I will know who he had in that car.

Danica's POV

"Who's calling you?" I asked Aiden as he frowned deeply as his phone. "It's Kaden." He said then mouthed to me to stay quiet while he answered the call.

"Hey Kade."

"Who did you bring here?" A rough yet very very very sexy voice said on the other side of the phone and I suddenly felt breathless. I tried not to make any sounds and get myself under control but my body was just not cooperating with me.

"Well, hey to you too." Aiden replied with force humor, making me roll my eyes.

"Who did you bring? That smell was...amazing." Kaden said and I froze. Smell? Did he smell what I did? Wait could that mean....No, that's not possible.

"That must have uh...been my cookies! Yeah my cookies." Aiden said with a light chuckle as he slowly pulled the car over.

"Cookies....sure... Come back immediately." Kaden said in an Alpha tone that even made me want to submit and he isn't even my Alpha. "Oh and make you bring your cookies."

With that, Alpha Kaden disconnected the call.

"Well, that was nice." I said as my nerves calm down a little since Kaden was no longer on the phone, but I did miss his voice... just a little.

"I can't bring you back. Can you run from here?" Aiden asked me with a pleading look on his face.

"Why can't I just meet him? I mean he obviously knows I'm with you. It won't make any sense to come back without me or any cookies." I said with a smirk.

"Daaaaniiiicccaaaa" Aiden whined like a child and I sighed.

"Okay okay. But you owe me."

He smiled and me as I got out of the car.

"I'll make up for this I promise. Be safe alright?"

I waved him off then watched as Aiden turned the car in the direction we had come and drove off.

Since I didn't really feel like shifting, just walked along the dirt path towards my pack.

I wished Aiden took me with him, it would have been awesome to meet Kaden. I don't know, just the mention of him makes me all excited and hyped. I have a theory as to why that might be....but I may need to discuss it with one of my pack Elders.

I heard a car approaching from behind me and for a moment I thought it was Aiden until I turned and saw it was a red car this time and Aiden's car is not red. Cautiously, I moved to the side to give it room to pass me by but as it drew closer, it slowed down.

Oh my God what the hell?

"Would you like a ride?!" I heard a female voice call out as it stopped right next to me. The dark glass rolled down and it revealed a very....interesting looking girl. She would pass for pretty...if her face wasn't caked with makeup like a clown.

"Oh no that's okay." I said with a fake smile. I have no idea who this girl is and even though I got no bad vibe from her, I'm still keeping my guard up.

"Come on. I won't bite. Besides, it's pretty far from the next pack village so come on in." She said as she flashed her pearly whites at me.

I studied her intently. She obviously wasn't going to give up so I accepted her ride and climbed in next to her.

"Thanks." I said and she nodded.

"Of course. My Daddy and I are heading back to our pack. He's in the front."

I nodded.

"My name is Danica by the way." I held out my hand for her to shake but instead she pulled me into a bone crushing hug that damn near knocked the life out of me.

"My name is Ilene."

Chapter 19

"Mom?" I called out then shut the front door with a loud bang, hoping to get her attention from whatever part of the house she was in since she obviously wasn't downstairs.

Ilene had dropped me off a few minutes ago near my pack borders and I walked the rest of the way. Man, can she talk. She didn't shut up for the entire time I was in the car and it wasn't even good conversation! Make up, clothes, make up, shopping, calories this, shopping, shopping and more shopping. I didn't even know buying the same top in 6 different colors was needed. She is obviously a bit spoiled...okay maybe a lot but besides being overly conceited and not that bright, she isn't so bad.

She mentioned she was going to marry her mate soon. I couldn't help but feel jealous at yet another pair of mates going to live happily ever after. Wish I could if had that....But I'm happy for Ilene. She wouldn't tell me who it was though. All she said was that he was an Alpha and that she'd be sure to send me a wedding invite.

"Mom!" I yelled again but got no reply. Well then.

Since she seemed she wasn't here, I went into the kitchen to see if she left me any food or something. I glanced around for any bowls or covered plates on the counter but there was none.

Just a note.

Went to a meeting the Alpha called. Won't be home till late. xoxo - Mom

Great. I'm home alone with nothing to do.

Wait, maybe there is something.

I grabbed a pear from the fruit basket and jogged to the front door. I slipped on my flip flops and headed out of the door.

As I walked through my large pack village, I headed straight to the house where my answers might be given to me about my thought.

I knocked on the door.

"Who tha' hell is that at ma do' at this hour?! Can't ya see it's gettin' late you- Oh! Dani! You aren't been ova to see me in fovea child." Mama Odie (WHAT UP PRINCESS AND THE FROG CHARACTER NAME) She was the woman who knew anything about anything werewolf related and the only person who could probably have answers to my questions.

Mama Odie stared at me intently with squinted eyes.

"Hey Mama Odie. I know I haven't been by but a lot has been going o-" "I know child. I done heard the village gossip. Come on in." She said and opened the door fully so I could come in.

Mama Odie was Jamaican. She was a rogue that came onto our land a few years aback when our present Alpha's father was in charge. He saved her from killed by the guards and she's been a member ever since. My mom told me the story just like her mother told her. Mama Odie is said to be over 200 years old but she hasn't told anyone for sure how old she is.

"What can I do fo ya child?" Mama Odie asked me as she sat in her recliner and I sat on the couch opposite of her.

"Um" I rubbed my hands nervously and hoped what I was about to ask didn't sound completely insane.

"Do second chance mates exist Mama?"

Aiden's POV

"So...you dropped a box of cookies on the highway on your way back?" Kaden questioned me with a raised brow as he twiddled with his pocket knife. I gulped as I recalled how good of an aim he has but he wouldn't kill me....right? Of course not.

"Yeah it just...pow! Fell right there on the road when I opened my door. You know I'm a klutz Kade." I said. I could lie to the Goddess herself and properly sound more convincing than I did just now. For some reason, I've never been able to lie to Kaden and make it he a fluent one.

"Aid, you know I love you right? I mean you are my little brother after all." Kade said with a flash of a smile then back to a serious facade.

"Of course bro. I love you too."

"Then stop bullshitting me. Who did you bring here? I need to know!" Kaden yelled as he threw the knife into the desk and stood up abruptly. "Why is this such a big deal?" I asked him with narrowed eyes.

"I just....I just need to know!" He exclaimed and ran a hand through his hair.

"Look, I have a meeting to attend too with a neighboring pack. We'll talk about this later."

Kade rubbed his nose then brushed past me and out the office.

I sighed and sat down in one of his chairs. He seemed SO interested in Danica. Though...he should know who she is I mean her scent was here that night so he should know it but he doesn't.

It's like....she smelled different to him. But how? That doesn't make any sense. Does it?

Should it?

Chapter 20

"000 child. Second chance mates? Why are you asking about that?" Mama Odie asked me as she raised a hairy brow and I rubbed my shoulder.

"Well...You know about my mate already..."

"Mhm."

"I took this scent Mama. It was so sweet and amazing and I felt so lost in it and I heard you only take a scent like that from-"

"Your mate." She finished for me and I nodded.

Mama Odie rubbed her chin then snapped her fingers.

"Well...it be possible but that ain't happen for a long time child."

"All I need to know is that there's a chance it can happen." I felt a sudden excitement. Second chance mates are real and they do exist. That means I could very well have one. The scent I took could be my second Chance mate's! But wait...

"Mama Odie....if someone has a second mate..would they be able to sense them if they still have the first one?"

Mama Odie looked a bit taken aback by my question then she looked confused.

"No."

"No?" I asked again and she nodded.

"No." Mama repeated and I felt the little excitement I had go down in flames. That means I don't have one after all..

"Thanks for the help Mama Odie but I got to run home and prepare dinner..." I said softly.

"Aright child. Be sure to visit Mama. Now you hear me?"

"I'll visit." I told her with a smile and I intended on keeping my word. "Wait" Mama Odie exclaimed, "You nah going to that meeting? I heard it's a big one."

I thought for a moment. Normally meetings involved every member of the pack but you can choose to attend or not if you haven't received a general notice from the Alpha himself.

"I don't think I will. I'll just get my mom to tell me what it's about." "Alright child. Good night."

"Good night Mama."

Kaden's POV

"How about joined pack training in the open field between both our packs?" I added.

"Why joined?" Alpha Devon(Danica's Alpha. Sorry if I gave him a different name before) asked with a raised brow as he looked up from the map he was scanning profusely.

"Because your pack needs to know how to fight other wolves besides each other. They need to see different tactics, different movements besides sparing with their friends whose movements they already know down to the T. And you know better than anyone else in this room that tactics are everything in battle." I said as I eyed every person in the room with us currently at the meeting.

Devon nodded in understanding then clapped his hands.

"Everyone, take 5 then come back so we can get this done. I know you all probably want to stretch your legs by now."

Half of the room groaned in appraisal then bolted out of the room as quickly as they could include Devon but one woman lingered. One I knew all too well.

"Roseanna." I said with a nod. Her head shot up and looked at me. She looked scared or nervous.

Damn it's not like I was going to hurt her.

"Alpha Kaden." She replied with a nod back. "I just wanted to apologize to you. Personally."

I rose from my seat and slowly strode over to her. My height of 6'5 towering over her maybe 5'4 stature.

"Apologize?" I asked with a smirk and she looked like she was about to roll her eyes but held it back.

"Yes. For intruding on your land that night. I just wanted to protect my daughter." Roseanna explained and I shrugged.

"No harm done. Just maybe get permission next time."

She nodded and flashed me a quick smile before leaving the room.

I saw no reason to scold her or anything like that for trying to do her job. She is a mother after all.

Children were something I always wanted with my ma-.....

I sighed and left the room in search of the kitchen for a Coke.

Damn, this place is confusing. How the hell am I -

There it is. That scent from before. It's here! Well, Aid's Cookies certain traveled far from that road.

I breathed in the scent as deeply as I could to try to pinpoint what direction it was coming from.

Outside.

As I rushed to the front door, avoiding the weird looks I was getting from the people I passed, my hand was just about to open the door when I heard my name being called.

"Alpha Kaden, the meeting is about to resume."

I growled.

"5 More minutes." I said but as I was about to turn the knob, Devon spoke again.

"We need to get this done Kaden. We have a lot of ground to cover." Anger filled me as I reluctantly let go of the knob and turned to face Devon. I gave him a nod and he disappeared into the quarters of his office.

I guess my little quest will have to wait...Alpha duties.

I glanced at the knob one last time. Damn.

Shaking my head, I went to Devon's office to continue the meeting.

I passed a window and caught a glance at a red head passing in the distance but she disappeared faster than I expected.

I felt like I needed to know her but in some way I felt like I already knew her.

Danica's POV

I opened my front door and sighed. For some reason I felt depressed and upset. I don't know if I was feeling that way because of what Mama Odie told me or if these emotions were even mine.

Richard. The thought of him made this god forsaken mark itch. I really want it gone already but I have no choice but to live with it until I eventually move on with my life and get someone to mark over it.

I guess I've got a long way to go...

From the looks of things, my mom isn't home yet so I might as well actually start dinner.

I kicked off my shoes and lazily walked to the kitchen. As I swung open the kitchen door, my body collided with the door- wait, I opened the door though.

I gasped a hand gripped mine and the tingles shot through my entire hand, making me feel weak in the knees and I know only thing and one person can do that.

Aw shit.