

My Step-Dad Is My Mate

Chapter 21

"Get off of me!" I screamed as I thrashed around in his arms.

"Relax!" He whisper yelled.

"Let me go!" I screamed in Richard's face as he tightened his grip on me.

"I just want to talk. Relax and I'll let you go." Richard whispered into my ear and I couldn't help but shiver when his lips lightly grazed my mark. It sent me straight to Cloud 10.

I growled softly to myself for that moment and weakness and stopped my violent movements.

As promised, Richard's hands slowly loosened from their grasp on me and I jumped away from him to put space between us.

"Why are you here? I thought you were locked away."

Richard stuffed his hands into his coat pocket and stared at me intently. "I was released."

My eyes widened in shock.

"By who?"

He shrugged and leaned against the kitchen counter.

"I don't know. A guard came in and told me I could leave. I came back here for my clothes and to speak to you."

"Well I want nothing to do with you quite frankly so you can take your shit and leave." I said calmly but really I was fuming on the inside. I don't know but seeing him in front of me right now was both relieving and pissing me off.

"Danica please. I came here for a reason." Richard pleaded with me and I sighed.

"What do you want?"

Richard leaned off the counter and walked up in front of me. I backed away until my back was against the wall and Richard towered above me. His finger caressed my cheek and I fought with myself to push him away but I just couldn't. He looked straight into my eyes and I noticed his eyes looked down, sad like. He took a deep breath then spoke and the words he said were not the words I expected to hear in a million years.

Aiden's POV

"Mom please, stop." I pleaded with my mother as I walked around the kitchen island in circles with my fingers in my ears.

"When you going to find your mate and bring me some grand babies? I'm not getting any younger Aiden." She ranted.

"Why don't you bother Kaden with this stuff!" I groaned in annoyance and banged my head once on the counter top. Thank God for being a werewolf or that would hurt.

"He isn't he-"

"Mom! Is Aiden her-Oh there you are. Aiden, my office please." Kaden said as soon as he bursted into the kitchen with an already pissed off look on his face.

"Kaden!" Mom yelled with narrowed eyes, "Is that how you greet your family?"

Kaden's eyes shifted to mom's and the hard look he came in with seemed to have melted away in an instant. No matter how bad he portrays to be, he has always had a soft spot for our mom.

"Hey momma." Kaden said with a smile and his hands wrapped around mom in an embrace.

I made a gagging noise and Kaden growled, releasing mom from the hug.

"We need to talk."

"Oh no. You can talk right here. We don't have sound proof walls for nothing. Besides, you guys never let me in on anything." Mom pouted and I couldn't help but laugh while on the other hand Kaden was serious as hell.

"Who is it Aiden?" Kaden growled to me and I grabbed my coke I was drinking earlier and sipped it.

"Who is who?" I asked and he scoffed.

"Are you two really the leaders of my pack?" Mom asked as she rubbed her forehead, "you both are so childish. Aiden, just tell him you brought your girlfriend here."

I choked on my drink as I stared wide eyed at my mother.

"Girlfriend?" Kaden questioned.

"She isn't my girlfriend! Jesus mom." I exclaimed and she stuck her tongue out at me.

"And I'm the childish one." I said with a roll of my eyes.

"Then why did she smell like that?" I heard Kaden whisper as he stared at the floor in a dazed way.

"What's this smell you keep going on about?" I asked.

His head went up and he shook his head.

"Nothing. Forget it."

The front door suddenly slammed shut and Kaden stood in an attack stance in front of mom and I was ready to shift.

One of our guards, Wade burst into the kitchen with his head bowed. "I apologize for disturbing your home Luna." He said, referring to my mom as Luna. She may not be the present Luna but she is still considered as so since Kaden's mate passed

"But I needed to speak with the Alpha urgently and he was unavailable through link."

"Get on it with it." Kaden and I said at the same time and I snapped my fingers

"You owe me a coke" I said with a smile and he rolled his eyes. "Richard Blaize has escaped." Wade said.

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE ESCAPED?" Kaden bellowed and I cleared my throat. All heads snapped my direction.

"He didn't escape" I began, "I let him go."

"WHAT THE-" Kaden started but I cut him off.

"Now now! I had good reason and I have trackers keeping an eye on him." I finished then downed the rest of my Coke.

"I'm done." Mom said and walked out of the kitchen with her hands up. "And what reason is that? That extremely important reason that you went ahead and made a decision like that WITHOUT MY authorization." My brother seethed with anger.

"You'll find out soon." I said with surety.

Danica's POV

"I'm here to accept your rejection." Richard said and I swear my heart stopped.

"You're kidding." I said and he shook his head slowly then took a step back away from me.

"I've thought a lot Danica and thinking was something I haven't been doing enough. You deserve to be happy but your happiness won't come with me. We might be mates but you are beyond me so I'm giving you a chance to live your life and I can only hope one day you actually forgive me and maybe I can be a part of it."

I stood there in utter silence at his speech. Holy shit he wasn't kidding. He's going to go through with the rejection.

Richard reached over by the sink and grabbed a knife. He sliced his palm swiftly without a wince and handed it to me.

"Here."

I hesitantly took it and lingered with the knife on my palm. What is wrong with me? This is what I want. Is it? He's right. I can't find happiness with him. Come on Danica, come on.

I sliced my palm with the knife and let it drop to the floor. As the blood began to pool up in the cut, Richard grabbed my hand.

He growled softly and his canines grew longer. My mark began to burn about 3x worse than before and I felt breathless.

"Say it." He whispered.

I struggled to get my words out. Freaking mark.

"I Danica Monroe, R-reject Richard Blaize as my mate." I choked out. Every word made me feel like I was falling into a dark place and extremely broken.

Richard sent a sad smile at me then he himself took a deep breathe.

"I Richard Blaize accept your rejection."

Chapter 22

One Week Later

I stared at my gown with a Cheshire cat grin. I tried on my cap and smiled in the mirror.

Graduation is tomorrow. I can't believe it.

After tomorrow I'll officially be done with high school

And tonight...well I'll be talking to my mom after something really important. Everything has changed since Richard accepted the rejection but that doesn't stop my original plans.

My neck began to burn again, indicating to me that the Naproxen was wearing off. I dug around in my bag for the pill bottle and popped one. Let me explain. Naproxen is a pain killer I now have to take 3 times a day to avoid the full on pain of my mark. Since the rejection it's hurt..bad.

When I asked Mama Odie about it yesterday, she told me it hurt because of the rejection and the only way to stop it is either to take back the rejection- which is never going to happen- or get someone to mark over it- which I'm not sure when that is going to happen so they better have a lot of Naproxen in storage.

Unfortunately it doesn't hold for the entire day, I take one in the morning two in the afternoon then I take the pain at night.

My phone rang and I picked up.

"Hey Aiden."

"Hey Dani. What's up?" He said in an unusually cheerful voice which made me raise a brow.

"What's got you so happy?" I asked suspiciously.

"What? I can't be happy my best friend is graduating tomorrow?" He asked and I chuckled

"Since when were we best friends?"

"Besides the point" Aiden quickly said," I'm just really proud of you. You worked hard for this and came out successful despite all you had going on."

"Yeah I know right. But what did you call for exactly?"

"Well" Aiden cleared his throat," I wondered if you wanted to go to dinner tonight. Not a date or anything just a little congratulations dinner. Maybe a movie after?"

"Uh..." I said, clueless if I should go or not. It's not a date so I guess it would be okay.

"Okay Aid, that sounds good. Pick me up at around 9?"

"Why so late?" He asked.

"I have something I got to talk to my mom about first." I replied.

"Oh alright. I'll see tonight Dani." He said and I nodded, even though he couldn't see me.

We said our good byes then I hung up.

Now I need to find something to wear for tonight. This is going to be fun.

Not.

Aiden's POV

I got off the call with Danica and turned to face him.

"I've found somewhere else for you to live. New life, new everything. You're welcome and you may go."

"If we weren't on your land right now I swear..."

"You swear what? There isn't anything you could do to me. I'm doing this for Danica. You and her will never be together" I said to Richard with a smirk."

"Neither will you and her. I did what you wanted. I accepted her rejection. But was that really necessary?" He said, gesturing to my phone.

"I'm taking her out for a congratulatory dinner. No biggie." I said with a shrug.

"I might have made many wrong decisions by her but that doesn't mean it doesn't bother me any less."

"You have no say-in-fact you never had a say. She isn't your mate anymore Richard."

He squinted his eyes at me and growled.

"I'll leave after her graduation."

I shrugged.

"I can accept that. Have a good one Richy."

Richard stood up and mumbled to himself before leaving my office with a loud slam of the door.

All I'm trying to do is keep Danica safe. She won't want to see Richard everyday after a rejection

Although she seems like she is doing okay, I know better. I know a rejection is nothing easy plus the pain she goes through with that mark is enough.

My phone vibrated in my hand.

Unknown number.

I sighed and picked up.

"Is it done? Is he going to leave?" I heard her voice on the other side of the phone and I rolled my eyes.

"Yes Roseanna. It's done."

Danica's POV

That night...

I straightened up my top, gently fluffing out it's black frills then applied my light pink lip gloss.

"Someone's getting dolled up."

I smiled and twirled around.

"It's nothing much. Aiden is taking me to dinner tonight."

Mom clicked her tongue.

"I figured. You and him have been talking a lot the past week."

I glanced at my mom through the mirror.

"Yeah...I guess so." I added a shrug.

By the smug look on mom's face, she obviously thought something. "No mom. No, no. We aren't dating. We're just friends." I said and stepped away from my mirror

to my vanity to get my purse.

"If you say so..." Mom mumbled and I rolled my eyes.

"There is something I've wanted to talk to you about though."

Mom looked at me with wide eyes then moved to sit on my bed. "That doesn't sound good."

"Well it is. I mean maybe to me rather than you...Mom I'm m-"

Beep beep!

What the h

"Get your ass down here little Missy!" Aiden's voice rang out in my head and I silently cursed him.

Talk about bad timing.

"Aiden?" Mom asked and I nodded.

"Get going sweetie. We'll talk later."

I gave my mom a hug and grabbed my flats near door and quickly put them on.

"See you mom!"

I jiggled downstairs then out the door, shutting it behind me.

Aiden was leaning against his car, watching me with a smile.

"You look gorgeous." He said and I rolled my eyes

"Thank you but I told you 9. It's barely 8:30."

Aiden shrugged. "I was excited to see you. Besides now we'll have more time to hang out. Come on, get in."

He opened the passenger's side door for me and I thanked him before getting in.

He soon got in and started up the car.

"Ready to go?"

"Ready." I looked at him and smiled. Returning my smile, Aiden backed out onto the road then drove up onto the street.

Even though this isn't a date, it kinda feels like one and I just hope we get no interruptions this time.

Chapter 23

"Why did you take me here?" I asked Aiden as I glanced around the dark themed restaurant.

"What's wrong with it?" He asked and placed his menu down casually while he flagged down a waiter.

"Aiden look around. This place is full of couples. I mean you could of taken me to a Pizza place or something."

It's true. This place is filled with couples. Holding hands, kissing, touching each other.

I don't even want to know what that couple in the corner is doing. "Relax Danica. Most of these people are just friends like us."

"You suck all your friend's faces?" I asked with a raised brow and Aiden chuckled.

"Hello, good evening. May I take your order?" A young waitress said softly while she stood by our table with a small notebook in hand. "Aiden can we just leave?" I asked but he rolled his eyes at me then took my hand.

"Come on. Just at least order something I worked hard to get a reservation here."

I sighed and turned to look at the waitress who looked slightly uncomfortable. Her scent indicated to me she was human. Weird.

"I'll have a fried rice with chicken and steamed vegetables please. Oh and a slice of cookie cake." The waitress wrote down my order while I struggled to get my hand out of Aiden's but it's like he had my fingers in a death grip. What the hell is he doing?

"I'll have the steamed salmon." He said and the waitress gave us both a brief nod then rushed off.

"Aiden." I called and he looked at me.

"Can you let my hand go?"

"Oh. I'm sorry." He chuckled nervously then released my hand and I almost sighed in relief.

"Danica!" A shrill voice yelled and I almost jumped out of my seat. "It's been so long!"

I turned to see who it was and I think the entire restaurant did the same.

It was Ilene. Wow what's she doing here?

"Ilene." I plastered a fake smile on my face and got up to greet her. She gave me a big hug then a kiss on both cheeks.

"I haven't seen you in forever! I see you have a date." She said then wiggled her brows at me.

"Oh no no. He's just my friend. Ilene this is-"

"Beta Aiden" She finished for me and I was kinda speechless for a moment.

"Alpha Ilene." Aiden said and with the frown he wore on his face, it was obvious he didn't like her.

"You never told me you had found your mate Aiden and you Danica! Never told me you were mated to a Beta." Ilene exclaimed in what I think was to be a seductive tone.

"We aren't mates." Aiden and I answered together and I could if swore the tone of his voice was angry.

"Oh. What a shame. You two look cute together." Ilene said with a shrug.

"Why are you here Ilene?" I asked, hoping to change the conversation. "Oh" she exclaimed and clapped her hands excitedly, "I'm meeting my fiancé here for dinner."

"You know damn well he isn't marrying you." Aiden said while he took a gulp of his water.

"Lord..." I mumbled and scratched my head awkwardly while Ilene glared at Aiden's head.

"Shut the hell up Aiden. You don't know what you're saying. Kaden loves me."

The mention of his name sparked my attention.

"Kaden?" I asked and Ilene nodded proudly.

"Yes. Alpha Kaden. He's my fiancé."

"The hell he is." Aiden coughed.

"Your orders..." The waitress came back with two covered plates in hand.

I won't lie, the thought of Kaden marrying Ilene bothered me....alot, I just don't know why.

"Danica, you still want to leave?" Aiden asked me and I nodded.

"Uh yeah..Let's go see the movie."

I grabbed my purse from the table and straightened my dress awkwardly.

"Oh why are you leaving?" Ilene asked and I held back a scowl.

"I'm not all that hungry plus I don't uh..want to miss the premier. Mocking Jay Part 2."

"Oh Em Gee! Hash Tag Hunger Games Fan! Maybe we'll meet up again later. Bye babes." She exclaimed then blew me a kiss but I'm just looking at Ilene like she's something out of a Looney toon.

"Bye Ilene..." I gave her a quick wave then pulled Aiden.

"So you don't want your orders?" The waitress asked after being silent for like the past 2 minutes, I forgot about her.

"Oh I'll take them. My date will be here any minute. Danica looks like she has good taste." Ilene grabbed the plates then put them on the table.

"I don't know how anyone can deal with her." Aiden sighed quietly while I was deep in thought.

"Is Your Alpha really marrying her?" I asked him but he gave me a half shrug.

"Last I checked, he wasn't but we haven't spoken much about it lately so I don't know."

I don't know what it is but I hope he doesn't marry her.

Kaden's POV

I sighed and parked my car a few cars down from the restaurant I was supposed to meet Ilene at.

Why am I doing this? I don't know but I just know I already don't like it. As soon as I stepped out of the car, I was slapped.

Slapped by the scent that's been torturing me for over a week now.

I eyed every person standing on the sidewalk or passing me by. How is it I always come by after the scent has gone?

I breathed in the strawberry aroma and it led straight to the restaurant. How ironic.

Please don't tell me it's Ilene.

Clearing my throat and fixing my tie, I strode into the building. Not even 20 seconds in upon my entrance, I heard the loud cries that could only be Ilene calling me.

I made my way over to her, but my focus was on that scent...But it was leading me straight to her.

"Kaden! I'm so glad you could make it." She screeched and I avoided the eyes of the people staring at us because of her loud self.

Ilene hugged me and I realized the scent was all over her but it wasn't hers. And it was all over the table.

I'm not going insane am I?

"Ilene. Why do you smell like that?" I asked her and she looked at me funny.

"Like what?"

"Like....I don't know... Someone else."

She looked like she was thinking for a minute then she snapped her fingers.

"Oh well I saw my best friend and she hugged me so her scent must have got on me-"

So Ilene is friends with whoever owns that scent.

"-and she was on a date with your Beta and -"

"Excuse me?" I asked her, "Did you just say she was on a date with Aiden?"

"Well she said it wasn't a date but come on, look at this place. It so was." Ilene exclaimed then gave me an annoying laugh.

"Aren't we supposed to be planning our wedding?" Ilene said while she sat down and uncovered the two plates which were on the table. "I ordered for us." She said and I eyed her suspiciously.

"You ordered this?" I pointed to the plates filled with the steaming food and she nodded fervently.

"Now sit and eat, let's discuss who's going to be on our guest list." She said excitedly and I groaned.

"Ilene" I said and patted the back of her hand while I sat down. She is going to understand tonight that we are not and never will get married. Danica's POV

"Did you really have to buy the super large bucket?"

"Of course Dani. I'm a Big boy. I require a lot of food. Plus a certain someone made us miss dinner."

"We could have stayed if you wanted." I said to Aiden as we entered the movie theater looking for a seat.

"Yeah we could of but Ilene gets under my skin. You have no idea." He told me then gave a fake shudder.

I giggled and took a sat in the back. Aiden sat next to me and already began munching on his popcorn.

"Pig much?" I punched his arm then bent down to undo my heels. These things are killing me.

"Do you have anything planned after the movie or are you bringing me home after?"

Aiden didn't answer.

"Aiden?"

Still no answer.

I finally undid the other heel then sat upright.

"Hey why didn't you answer me?" I poked his arm but he only growled. What's the matter with him?

Aiden's eyes were glued to the theater entrance, at a girl who was staring right back at him with her arm linked to another guy's.

"Mine." Aiden growled lowly and I opened my eyes wide.

Oh shit.

Chapter 24

"Is that your..."

"My mate..." Aiden whispered as he stared at the girl with dark eyes, glaring hard at the man who had his arm around her waist, completely unaware of the killer stare he was getting.

The girl looked surprised and forced herself away from the guy. He looked at her confused and it looked like they were talking but because of the amount of chatter it had in here by the people who were yet to settle down, I was unable to hear what they were saying.

But I know for sure she was a werewolf, and so was her little date.

The guy turned to look at Aiden and I, then said something briefly to her and he rushed out of the theater.

The girl remaining standing near the entrance, shyly rubbing her arm.

I nudged Aiden and he glanced at me.

"Go get her."

Aiden kinda frowned and his eyes returned to their normal color. "What about you?"

"This isn't about me" I said, "You have a mate now and that's what you need to worry about. So go get her and link me later with the details." I finished and gave Aiden a small wink that made him chuckle.

"We just can't get a date right huh?" He said then shook his head. "Well that's the the thing. This wasn't a date. Go go go..before she thinks something." I gestured

for him to get up and go to the girl who was currently looking at me with narrowed eyes.

"Thanks Dani." Aiden told me before giving my hand a quick squeeze then leaving his seat

beside me and heading to his mate.

I watched as he approached her, they began to speak for a little bit and I saw Aiden smile at her then rub the back of his neck. It was pretty amusing to see a Beta shy towards his female equal.

Aiden held out his hand to her and she slowly took it and they both left. Let's just hope he doesn't screw this up.

I looked at the huge bucket of popcorn next to me and sighed

"I guess it's just you and me huh?"

Finally it began to get quiet and the room darkened as the movie was about to begin.

I might as well stay. There is no way I'm wasting that ticket or this popcorn.

Kaden's POV

"Is this the theater?" I asked a good friend of mine, Danielle.

"Yeah this is where he came in with some girl. She was pretty but totally out of his league." She said and shook her head.

I had left the restaurant with Ilene a few moments earlier and to say she was upset would be an understatement. I tried to reason with her but she was causing a scene so I left.

I don't do scenes.

I was tracking down the scent until I spotted Danielle. She told me she saw Aiden and a girl go into a movie theater so I followed. Aiden might get mad I rained on his "date" but he lied to me either way so I call this even.

"Thanks Danielle." I gave her a brief nod then entered the building.

I looked around but I couldn't really see anyone. The large room barely had people in besides those who were behind the snack bars and standing in front of the movie posters and none of them were who I expected to see.

"Kaden?"

I turned around to come face to face with my brother.

"You son of bitch. You lied to me Aiden."

"Lied about what?" He asked with a confused facial expression

I pinched the bridge of my nose.

"Forget it. Where's the girl you came here with?"

"Danica? Why?" He asked me and I soon grew impatient with him Every moment wasted is a moment I am from finding her.

"Just tell me where she is." I pushed.

"Not until you tell me what's going on." Aid crossed his arms and had a hard look on his face.

I growled and tried to keep my temper down. Why am I getting so angry at him? I've never gotten this pissed at him before for such a small reason..but small reasons have huge effects.

"You remember I told you about that scent I kept smelling?"

Aiden nodded and I sighed.

"I think it's from her-no scratch that, I know it is because you were with her and you reek of that her scent. Just tell me where she is."

He shrugged and pointed to a large dark gold door across the room.

"I don't know if she's still there. I left here to go with my mate so I'm not sure if she left."

I raised a brow and smirked.

"You found your mate?"

Aiden smiled proudly and nodded.

"I did. Her name is -"

"That's fantastic bro but we'll talk about this later." I gave him a pat on the shoulder and jiggled shortly to the door.

"Excuse me Sir, do you have a ticket?" A short red haired boy asked me and I growled at the hand he had extended to me.

He drew his arm back slowly and took a few small steps away from me, and looked straight ahead like I wasn't there.

I drew my attention to the door and what was potentially behind it. How would I approach her? I can't just off the bat bring up the fact her scent is like wolf-nip to me or that I've been following it for days now. Okay, no I can't. I sound like a druggie rather than an Alpha.

I'll just be professional. Yeah, professional is best.

I pushed the door slightly, peeking in and a whiff of her addicting scent hit me a punch to the face.

Maybe professional is going out the door.

Danica's POV

"Dammit Peta!" I whisper yelled to myself as I stuffed popcorn in my mouth.

Watching this by myself isn't as half bad as I thought it would be. It would have been nice if

Aiden could have stayed but I would have never let him. His mate is far most important than I am.

"What the fuck!" I yelled and quickly covered my mouth as a bunch of people shushed me.

I sunk low in my seat and took a sip of my Pepsi but nearly dropped it when it hit me.

And it hit me hard.

Really hard.

Strawberries and fresh rain.

I averted my eyes around the entire room, scanning through the small crowd of people until my eyes landed on a pair of grey ones.

He was just standing by the door, staring at me. On a normal day, I would of found this creepy beyond words but I didn't even care.

I put the bucket of popcorn on a seat and my drink in the holder and got up from my seat, my eyes never leaving his.

"Sit down!" Someone whispered yelled at me but they sounded so far away.

"Oh shut up." I replied and crossed over the person's legs.

The guy looked shocked as well as pleased as he stared at me up and down while I came up to him.

I stood before the tall man, in the same state of shock myself.

And in that moment we said the word I never thought I'd hear someone say to me again in my life, at the same time.

"Mate."

Chapter 25

Danica's POV

"So...Aiden's Alpha is your mate?"

I nodded.

"How the hell did that happen?"

"I don't know mom. I didn't even think it was still possible to have a second mate. I mean I talked to Mama Odie but I still had my doubts." Mom tapped her fingernails against the wooden table and stared at the floor, something she usually does when she's thinking.

"Where is Kaden?" She asked and I frowned as I recalled what had happened just a few hours ago.

"He left." I said, and held back the urge to cry. Kaden had turned his back on me and left the theater, and me standing there like a complete idiot. It felt like rejection, even though it actually wasn't.

For him I understand, he lost his first mate and now he has another. It's probably scary for him or frustrating or something. Maybe eventually he'll come around...

I hope.

"What do you mean he left?" Mom asked and I sighed.

"He left the theater mom. He just turned around and walked out. I understand though. His mate died so it must be hard to process that he got another one."

Mom rolled her eyes and stood up from her chair.

"That doesn't mean he should have left you there like that. Come on, let's go pay Mr Alpha a visit."

"Mom" I said in a warning tone, "No. It's alright. I'm gonna give him a chance to let it sink it. Plus it's late and graduation is tomorrow."

Mom sighed and sat back down.

"Alright alright. Get some rest sweetie."

"Good night mom."

Kaden's POV

"How the hell can this happen to Aiden?"

"Danica is your mate..." Aid said in a dazed tone and I nodded as I downed the rest of my wine in my glass and poured another shot. "SHE'S YOUR FREAKING MATE!"

"I GOT THE IDEA BUDDY. THANKS." I yelled back at Aiden who has been in shocked mode since I came back to the house and told him. "It's just a shocker. I didn't think stuff like this still happened." He explained and I downed my other shot, groaning in annoyance at the now empty bottle.

"You're talking about you? What about me? I don't want another mate." I growled then tossed the shot glass on the floor, staring intently at it as it broke into pieces, kinda like my life right now.

"What the hell are you talking about? Do you know how lucky you are?" Aiden stared at me in disbelief but I avoided his gaze, "Do you know how many wolves would love to have the opportunity you have right now? Don't let it go to waste bruh."

"What? Are you my psychologist now?" I asked, irritated and moved to the seat near the large glass window that gave a clear view of the forest and bright moon before me.

"Yeah" Aid replied "I am because you're being too stupid to be your own. Whether you like it or not, you can't change this Kade. Just accept it, accept her. Maybe be really happy again for once..."

I shook my head.

"I can't accept her."

"Why?" Aiden asked as he shot up from his seat and was now standing behind me. I could feel his body heat a bit closer plus the light squeak of the chair provided an indicator.

I didn't answer his question and I could hear him take one more step closer.

"Why?" He asked again and I shut my eyes tight, silently praying he'd let this go.

In that moment, I felt his hand tightly grip my shoulder and forcefully turned me around to face him.

"WHY?"

"BECAUSE I CAN'T LOSE HER TOO!"

Aiden looked taken aback by my outburst and didn't say anything as I continued to speak.

"I can't lose her too...not like how I lost Lilly" My heart slight clenching at the mention of my first mate, Lilly," I wouldn't be able to handle that again. I won't be able to live with myself knowing I not just let one die but two."

"Dani isn't Lilly man. She can handle her own, trust me. You didn't let Lilly die. You weren't there Kaden. You couldn't have stopped it even if you were. Things happen for a reason, and the Goddess giving you Danica is for a reason. Don't just let her go. Don't do it for me or anyone else, do it for her." Aiden preached to me, and patted my shoulder before heading to the door.

"But more importantly" He spoke, just as he was about to leave," Do it for yourself."

The door closed and I was left in the pit of my thoughts and anguish. Since when did that asshole become a therapist?