

Life Turned Upside Down

Miss Donna's Story

By

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Publisher Note

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CHAPTER 1

Moonlight lit my way, as I walked home. No not walked, floated. Or it felt like it. No one, not even my parents, had ever given me such a huge birthday party. Not even whispers or question about my lacking parents had destroyed the festive atmosphere.

Little Tally King, future pride master of London Pride, and his best friend Jacob, ensured that only my favorite foods had been cooked. Music had filled the huge clearing behind the pride house. Moonlight provided enough light for any were-panther. It had been perfect, and nothing could destroy such a wonderful night. Or so I thought.

Screams, well my dad's yelling greeted me as I entered my childhood home. There was no telling what had set dad off. There was no way I'd let him destroy my good mood. I carried my new picture of Tally and Jacob, which Pride Master King had given me as a birthday present, to my room. Just as I reached a small table beside my bed, the door was thrown open.

Dad's tall muscular body loomed in the doorway with one of his shit eating grins. One I'd grown to know meant only trouble for me. Lack of being home for last five hours meant whatever had pissed him off hadn't been my fault. Consequences would be mine to reap, though.

"Donna, guess your celebration is over."

Dad squinted eyes, and a sour scowl showed that it wasn't a question to be answered. So, I waited for him to continue. Dad took two large steps inside my room, tossed a piece of paper towards me. I let it fall on top of my faded pink bedspread.

"Please," Mom softly spoke from the doorway.

Dad spun and pointed to the hallway. Mom took a huge chance at lingering long enough to look at me. I sort of wished she hadn't. Her typical dull blue eyes were grayer and held a lot of sadness. Finally, mom slowly turned her fragile thin body, and moved into the hallway.

Dad spun back towards me and said, “Take that and get the fuck out of my house.”

Shocked and confusion froze me. I couldn't even respond.

No movement.

No words.

After a couple of minutes dad propped his arms on his hips and screamed for me to get out.

That triggered my brain into gear. I reached for the paper. Looked at it, and felt rage consume every area of my body. I lifted it and snapped out a question.

“What's this for?”

“I told you. Get out. That's enough money for you to leave this country.”

His dead, unsympathetic tone only aided in my rage, and gave me courage to stand up to him for the first time in my life.

“This,” I waved the check at him, “is against our way of life.”

Dad took a step closer and said, “What you going to do about?”

Donna didn't step back. Every verbal assault he'd given me over the last eighteen years flashed through my mind. Without even thinking I stepped forward, squared my shoulders, positioning myself a hairs breath away from him and said, “I'll go to Pride Master King.”

“Doubt he'll care that another man's child was kicked out of my home.”

My hot angry skin felt as though someone had splashed ice water over me. Donna knew her face had gone pale. For a few moments everything around me seemed to be in a tunnel. I heard mom yelling and begging for dad to stop. Dad chuckled as he told her to hush her mouth.

Donna shook her head a couple of times, clearing the fogginess in time to see dad move in front of mom. Protective instinct kicked in, and I jumped in front of him. Stupid of me, yet,

knowing dad there had to be more, if it was true. Dad might have been using it as a prevention method.

“What does that mean?” I asked, as he halted his advance on mom, buying her a few more minutes before she had to deal with him.

“Means exactly what I said. You. Are. Not. My. Child.”

Dad looked back at mom who still held a pleading look, which only had dad laughing for a few minutes before he spoke again.

“Your mother was about to mate to another man.” Dad spat on the floor. “To a were-wolf, but as you know old laws stated that since Mother Earth mated, I had the right to change her. Choice was easy for me. Then she chose to follow her Mother Earth mate.”

“Lie,” Spittle flew. “I am a were-panther. Or has your nose finally stopped up.” Such a comment would piss him off, but hell it was correct. No scent of a wolf lived on me. I’d never once shifted to a wolf, only a panther.

“Indeed.” Dad spat again. “You are a child of a were-wolf, who carries the human gene, as well as the panther gene.”

“How?” Wasn’t sure what that question meant. Might have been *how* did he know. Could have been *how* was it possible. Got more of an answer than I wanted.

“Friend of mine says it’s due to me changing your mom while she carried a child. Rotten streak of luck, one could say. I got landed with a lousy Mother Earth mate, who loved someone else. Worse she stuck me raising another man’s child.” Anger grew with each word he said, but anything else dad said was drowned out by Donna’s internal thoughts.

A were-wolf, A were-wolf. A were-wolf.

It was the only thing registering. My biological father is a were-wolf who let my mom go. Did he know about me? Why had mom chosen to go with dad? With such a bastard and mean man? Had that been why? Or had it been due to the Mother Earth mating pull.

“Knowing that do you think your dear old friend, Pride Master King would enforce the rule.”

Dad was right. Pride Master King would have to kick me out. No mixed breeds were allowed in any pride. From what dad had just said, mom had been a human who was pregnant by a were-wolf before he turned her. Mother Earth, this was a nightmare. I tried getting to my mom, who stood in the hallway crying and begging for dad not to tell the pride master.

As I did, dad grabbed my arm, and slammed me up against the wall. With spittle flying out he said, “There is two choices. Leave with or without the check. Leaving without means Pride Master King gets informed. Your choice.” He leaned in closer and whispered, “What do you think young Tally will think about you being a damned mixed breed?”

Tally wouldn't care. Neither would Pride Master King, but supernatural laws had to be enforced and there'd be no way around it. There was only one choice.

With what little breath remained in me, I said, “Check.” Dad's gripped loosened. Donna inhaled and said, “May I back a couple bags?”

“Good decision, Donna.” He released me and motioned to the dresser. “Two bags of only clothes and two photos.” Dad faced a red-eyed mom and frowned. “Get yourself cleaned up. You look like a sniveling little brat.”

Mom shot me one more look, and then scurried off to do as told. Couldn't hold it against her. Dad had always been a controlling manipulating bastard and that wouldn't change. Apparently, I was reason. My leaving might mean a better life for her.

CHAPTER 2

Donna packed several outfits, two pair of shoes, a photo of mom, and the one of Tally and Jacob that I'd gotten earlier. Then headed out. Mom sat in the living room with her head down. I stopped with intent to tell her goodbye, but one look from dad told me there'd only be trouble. Without another word I walked back into the night.

It no longer seemed right. What had been a wonderful and enjoyable day had been shattered into a million and one different emotions.

I crept through the woods, checking for any pride members out for a midnight stroll or run. Being seen by them would only stir up questions. Not answerable ones. Each step came with realization of what had happened. I had nothing. Never truly did. Kept only because not doing so would draw more attention to dad.

Donna took in each tree, each sound and every stone. Memories of this area would have to suffice. I'd never be able to come back. Not without jeopardizing my mom. Donna paused at the pride master's house, and looked up at the room that belonged to Tally. Shadows moved around. Pride Master King was helping him get ready for bed.

Too bad goodbyes couldn't be said. A goodbye from afar was best way to sate Donna's need. Donna blew a kiss up at the window and said, "Tally King, you are a true friend. I will miss you greatly. Miss Donna loves you and will never forget you."

With that said to the empty night, Donna began to move again. No idea where to go. Had money. Knew a new country, an unknown one lay ahead of me. No home. No family. No friends. Not a life anyone would want.

Jacob deserved a similar goodbye, but his house wasn't on the path taking her towards town. So, his goodbye was forgone, in order to avoid running into anyone. Didn't quite work out

that way. Several feet from the end of London pride lands Donna heard what could have been a huge disaster.

“Donna Teal, please hold up.”

With a deep sigh I turned and faced a silvery haired, which shown brightly without any aid from the moonlight, woman.

“Seer Diego,” Donna plastered a huge smile on her face. There was no reason to be rude to the eldest pride member, just because of a foul mood. “What has you out so late at night?”

“You do.” Seer Diego propped herself against a tree.

“I do?” Donna felt her stomach bottom. Another disaster wouldn’t be handled without loosing it.

“Yes. I have a message for you.” Seer Diego pushed off the tree and came closer.

A message from a seer was not something any pride member ignored. And right then Donna was still a pride member, therefore listening was the only option. Anything else would have warned Seer Diego that something was off.”

“What is it?”

“Don’t bother putting on a air of happiness. I know what has happened. It triggered my vision.” Seer Diego scanned the area. “A very good one if you listen to it.”

There was nothing to lose, besides time, which at that moment there was plenty of. “Go on.”

“Your Mother Earth mate will be found soon. A very blessed young girl will be born to you.”

Donna felt a small smile form. And listened a bit more intently.

“Your daughter will be special in many ways.” Seer Diego took my hand. “Not only to you and her father, but to the entire supernatural world.”

I squeezed her hand and asked, “What will happen to Tally?” Sounded like a stupid question to ask after being told about your future, but it felt right.

“You are truly perspective.” Seer Diego winked. “Our future pride master will aid your daughter as her Mother Earth mate.”

That explained why I’d always been pulled towards Tally. At first, I’d even thought we were mates. Lack of a mating scent had dismissed it. Felt good to know why, but left me with another major question.

“Seer Diego, what do I do next?”

“Ah, child you are not lost. Please rid that from your voice. You are only floundering, and will find your way soon as you follow your heart. It never fails you.”

Seer Diego patted her cheek, turned Donna back towards town and gave a small push forward.

Donna walked, leaving her standing there. Felt like Seer Diego watched till I was out of sight. Once in town, I used my birthday cash, and grabbed a cab to the airport. Money in my checking account bought a ticket to the United States.

Made a fool out of myself when I walked up to a ticket line and requested a ticket on the first flight to United States. Ticket woman looked at me and asked, “Be a bit more specific. It’s a large place.”

Since I’d already opened *Fools R’ Us*, I continued down it by telling her whichever one left next. Ticket woman shook her head and type on the computer. A few seconds later, with ticket in hand I boarded a plane. Once on board, I looked at my destination.

CHAPTER 3

Plane descended and hit the runway before nerves showed up. Entire flight her mind had been fixed on where I'd go after landing in New York. I'd used almost every cent in the checking account to get a ticket. It would take a couple of days for any bank to verify dad's check and cash it. To top off, some of workers had pointed at me a couple of times. My mixed hearing allowed me to pick up on what they were discussing.

Apparently, ticket lady, had informed the captain of a strange woman request and what seat she had been assigned to. Captain passed along a warning to his workers, with instructions of keeping tabs on such an abnormal person. His actions weren't odd. For all they knew ticket lady had sold a ticket to a possible bomber. Good thing Pride Master King hadn't witnessed such a disgraceful act of drawing unwarranted attention.

"Welcome to New York. Hope you enjoyed you flight." Captain said over the speaker system.

Donna got up and tried to disappear among other passenger. It worked until I entered the luggage area. That's when an amazing scent of lavender surrounded me. Knees wobbled, and every inch of my body vibrated with little currents of electricity. Seer Diego had been right. Only a Mother Earth mate could have elicited such a reaction. Where was he?

With ease, Donna let her were-panther's scent of smell extend a bit further, and tracked that lovely smell. Before long I found myself standing next to the luggage line. My Mother Earth mate was near by, and so was my luggage. It had come into sight. I reached out to grab it, but a deep sexy, yet timid male said, "Which one and I'll get it for you."

Donna's head whipped to the right and lavender hit her full on. It took every ounce of strength not to pull him into a toe-curling kiss. Instead, I pointed to my bag, as he took possession of it, he winked and said, "Let's go talk."

They never did talk. Instead, walked out of the airport, and into a cab. Next thing Donna knew she found herself in a huge fancy hotel room, wrapped in his arms. A light snore beside her had Donna replaying just how they'd gotten there.

Instead of speaking, mate had lead them out of the airport, hailed a cab, and told him where to go. Need to mark him as mine, surged over me. It appeared mate battled as well. They started out with a large distance between them, by the end it had disappeared.

Control had been maintained by neither of them speaking. No names were even exchanged. Kind of funny and explained why I found myself marked and mated to my Mother Earth mate and didn't even know his name. Second thought, speaking might have been a better option. There was no reversing it, even if I'd wanted to. And I didn't.

"Pull is major isn't it," A sleepy groggy male voice said.

Donna nodded.

"Do you regret it?" A somewhat more awake male said.

"No." *What's your* name, hung on the tip of her tongue, but never came out.

"Sorry, I was lost in our mate pull, and forgot to introduce myself properly." Man pulled me closer and sniffed my neck. "Name's Keith Singer. May I know my Mother Earth mate's name?"

"Donna Teal." I mumbled and pushed closer, finding him ready for another round. Without even thinking, Donna turned towards Keith and wrapped her arms around him.

Keith looked into my eyes and said, "I've never seen such pretty blue eyes before."

My head dropped, eyes falling shut. They made me different and I hated them. Keith must not have, because he took a finger and lifted my head up. Kissed each eyelid and said, “Never hide such a pretty sight.”

“Why. They make me. . . “

“Unique.” Keith cut off my words. “Mine. Mine alone to gawk at and lavish with love.”

Keith meant those words and his face showed it. Well for the most part. Made me wonder if he had a chosen mate that would be harmed by our mating.

“You are thinking too hard.” Keith kissed a trail down to my lips. “I had no chosen mate. Was involved with someone, but he will understand.”

“He?” Keith’s slight cringe told me I hadn’t heard wrong. “You were involved with a man.”

“How’d I missed your British accent.” Keith nodded for a moment. “Makes sense why you seemed surprise I was involved with a man.”

“Is that allowed over here?” I asked and snuggled closer. Even if he’d been involved with someone else, our connection was solidified and he didn’t seem to mind it.

“Yes. Most still keep it to themselves, but it’s more than allowed.” Keith kissed me deep and pushed his midsections into mine. “After a few more round of your luscious body, I’ll find out what brought you to New York.”

Keith rolled me onto my back, as he kissed me so passionately that Donna’s mind melted faster than an ice cream cone on a hot day. Only the first of those kisses, mixed among each thrust deep into my wet hot sheath. For a man who had been involved with another man, he sure knew how to make a woman scream his name with each trip to orgasm heaven.

After several more rounds of hot, intense, long love making session, Keith and I showered and dressed. While shifting through what few clothes I had, he watched. With my cleanest and least wrinkled blouse in hand he asked, “What brought you to New York?”

“Relocation.” Vague answer. Surprised that Keith let me by with it.

“Permanent or temporary one?”

“Permanent.”

“Good to know. Would hate to have to track you back to . . .”

“London.” I filled the pause in for him.

“London just to bring you back.” Keith winked. “So where you staying at.”

Donna hadn’t considered anyone asking her such a question. Should have, since Seer Diego said I’d find my Mother Earth mate. Had to stick to as much truth as possible or this were-panther would pick up on it.

“Didn’t have one. Trip over was really not planned.”

Keith studied me for a few minutes and then shrugged. “Not a issue any longer. You’re mine and I have a place.”

I almost asked him where, but my panther roared her displeasure of what it saw as disrespecting her mate. So, it went unasked, and let him deal with things from that point on.

Turned out to be the right thing. Next three weeks were more of a whirlwind. Keith lavished me with new clothes, and jewelry. Donna spent every day being a perfect mate to a very strong and upcoming were-panther. Never once did Keith forget that I waited for him at home. Nor did he ever mention whomever he’d been involved with before he and I met. Sort of expected to pick up on some longing for the man, but none every showed up. Keith was truly devoted to, and in love with me, which Keith showed each night.

Our connection was strong and intense. We spent as much time talking about each other and our dreams as we did making love to one another. Keith never once pushed for an explanation of what had really brought me to New York. He even showed interest in how life in London had differed from the way the United States were-panthers lived. There were many, but most were improvements.

Not a day went by, I didn't desire to tell him what Seer Diego said about our child. I almost did the night that we discussed seer, but his dislike of them halted me. Thankfully, it hadn't been hard to learn how to hide some of my private thoughts. It helped that Keith didn't try to read my mind like dad had mom. Keith was a wonderful mate and would make a wonderful father.

He proved that when we made our daughter. Not only did he know we had. He agreed to follow my pride's tradition of prearranging a mating. Shocked me, because the United States supernatural beings didn't ahead to this tradition any longer. Keith even agreed for her to go alone. Never once questioning her.

Only thing he did question was about how safe it was to travel by oneself. Not only because being pregnant, but I'd been a bit off kilter for several days. It worried him, but not me. I simply told him that it would be better if I went early in the pregnancy. Keith agreed and made all the arrangements and told me to hurry home, so he could finish spoiling his family.

TWO YEARS LATER

“Keith,” I yelled after shutting the door, and shoving another letter from Tally into my pocketbook.

“Coming,” Keith yelled from his office area.

Soon as Keith got within sight he stopped and looked around me. “Where’s Kelly?”

Shit. I’d done it again. My mind was getting really bad. This was not the first time I’d forgotten to get Kelly out. I know she’s there, and how important it was to take care of her. Just like I knew the hidden letters of Tally’s come for a reason, but not why. It’s why they got hidden. Keith worries way too much. No sense in adding more. He’d worried since my returned from that short visit to London.

“Don’t worry. Your hands were full. I’ll go get her.” Keith swatted my rear-end as he passed me. “Take those on in and we’ll join you in a minute.”

I sat the bags down, and flopped onto the couch, burying my face in my hands and mumbled, “Mother Earth what is wrong with me. Can’t take living like this any longer. Sadness, and forgetting the most important thing in my life is not a life.”

“There, there,” Keith soothed a crying Kelly as they entered the hallway. “Mom had both arms full. She couldn’t carry you and all those bags. Daddy should have been paying attention and came to help her.”

Man, Keith was a saint. Luck had been on my side when Mother Earth mated us. How in the world could I continue living like this? If I do, it will only cost him and Kelly. Keith is a powerful man, whose dream to be on the Supernatural Council won’t come true if his mate can’t live properly. Kelly’s life will be even harder with a mother who can’t remember to bring her in.

What if I forget her completely and something happens. Not something any mother could live with. Nor wanted to think about what could happen.

Keith sat Kelly down on the floor. “Go play, and let daddy help mom.”

Kelly walked over, looked up at her and smiled so loving then scurried over to her toy chest.

“Donna,” Keith’s concerned voice drew my attention. “Why don’t you go take a rest, I’ll watch Kelly, and put these away.”

“You sure.” Donna knew there’d be no resting, too much to figure out. No way could I let my deteriorating health destroy Keith and Kelly’s entire life.

“Go on.” Keith kissed her and gave a little push towards the hallway.

I spent two hours laying on our bed, remembering those first three weeks of our lives. They had been so much fun. Love filled. There’d been lots of fun over the last two years, but lately, bad things out weighed those. It was time to end my own suffering, and any future suffering, which meant convincing Keith. Won’t be easy, but Kelly deserves a happy, and easy life. I’m no longer able to provide it, and a Mother Earth mate won’t follow his mate into the after life with a young child to care for.

“You sleeping?” Keith asked from the doorway.

“Nope. Kelly asleep?” Keith nodded and walked toward the bed. “Can we talk?”

“Of course.” Keith pulled her into his arms. “What’s on your mind?”

“Life.” Keith squeezed her, giving Donna strength to continue on. “Not been easy lately. Making way too many huge mistakes.”

“Donna, my love what are you trying to ask.

“Sometimes I wish you would use our link to find out.”

“You know I prefer to talk out loud, so there’s no misunderstanding and no one feels invaded.” Keith ran a hand up my arms. “Now what’s your question?”

“Will you grant me permission to take my journey home?”

Keith gasped and tightened his hold on me. “Why?”

“I’m destroying Kelly and your lives. How can you not see it? What mother forgets their daughter? I’m going to end up hurting her. Then she will hate me. We don’t know what is wrong with me. These spells of mine will cost you your dream. Then you will hate me. Please, let me end my suffering before I harm our precious little girl.”

“Those thoughts are in your head. We need you. Both your mate and daughter.”

“No. You need a mate who can be one. Kelly needs a mother who won’t forget her.”

Donna felt the tears slide down her face.

Keith blew out a long deep breath, and groaned. Frustration and anger seeped through their mate link. Donna felt his internal struggle between being a father, a mate, and her Pride Master. Donna hated putting him in such a spot, but it was his duty to take such request from everyone member under him.

Keith tuned my face so we were looking eye to eye. He wiped the tears off my cheek and kissed me deeply. Then against my lips whispered, “I hate my job. There’s not a valid reason for me to deny your request. All I can say as your mate is I will miss you. You are my heart, and I don’t want to lose you. Neither does Kelly. We love you and always will.”

Words couldn’t convey all the emotions that ran through me, so I kissed him, and let my body do the talking. Keith laid back, and let me. My hands ran over his body, memorizing each section. Keith finally took over and rolled me onto my back, playing my body like a violin,

milking it for every orgasm he could. He knew it would be our last time making love and wanted to savor it.

After Keith fell asleep I got up and burned each and every letter that Tally had sent. I still had no reason as to why he was sending them, but feared they held only another mistake. Not something Keith needed to run across after my death. Best to destroy them. After that Donna returned to bed. Gave Keith one more kiss, and then took her journey home with the knowledge of future for a very much loved family.

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