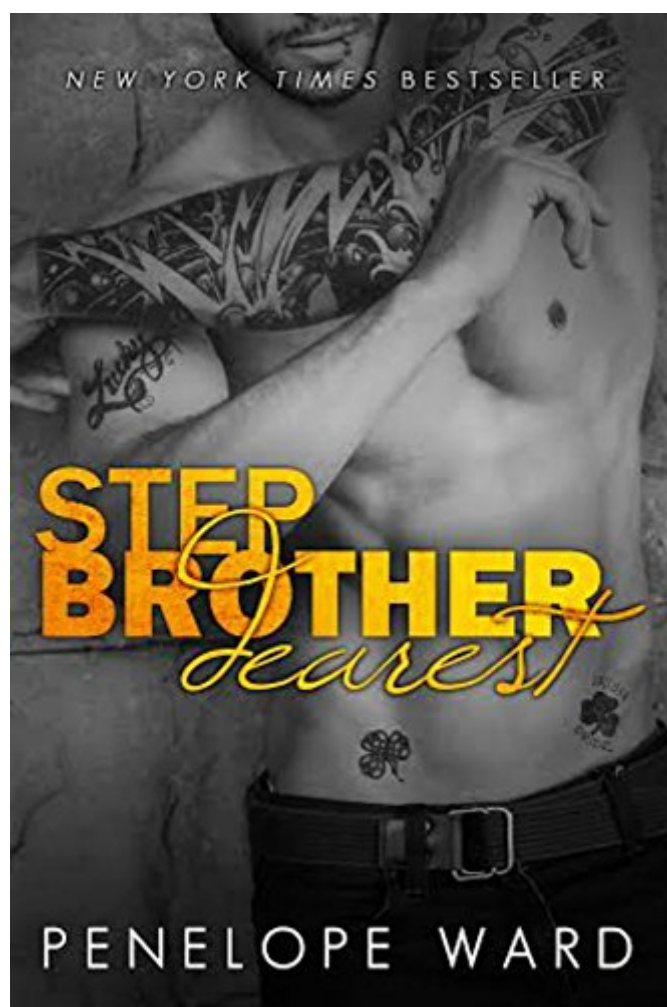


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# Stepbrother Dearest



## Synopsis

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER THAT STARTED A PHENOMENON...Youâ™re not supposed to want the one who torments you. When my stepbrother, Elec, came to live with us my senior year, I wasnâ™t prepared for how much of a jerk heâ™d be. I hated that he took it out on me because he didnâ™t want to be here. I hated that he brought girls from our high school back to his room. But what I hated the most was the unwanted way my body reacted to him. At first, I thought all he had going for him were his rock-hard tattooed abs and chiseled face. But things started changing between us, and it all came to a head one night. Then, just as quickly as heâ™d come into my life, he was gone back to California. It had been years since Iâ™d seen Elec. When tragedy struck our family, Iâ™d have to face him again. And holy hell, the teenager who made me crazy was now a man that drove me insane. I had a feeling my heart was about to get broken again. *Stepbrother Dearest* is a standalone novel. \*\*Contains graphic sexual content and harsh language. It is only appropriate for adult readers age 18+

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

âœYou were the best thing that ever happened to me. I hope someday I can say you were one of

the best, but for now, it's only you. •You know those books that pull you in like a riptide, taking over all your senses and making you completely oblivious to the fact that there is a real life outside those pages waiting for you to live it? Well, this is one of those books. From the moment I read the title, something inside me started screaming, I want, the mere idea of a forbidden romance of this type making my skin tingle. However, nothing about this story is what I expected to find, and everything about it has been a wonderful surprise—from the confident prose, to the dynamic characters, this is a love story that I immersed myself into fully and wholeheartedly, and loved every single minute of it. •Physically, he was my dream and in every other way, my nightmare. •We meet Greta and Elec as teenagers on the very day they first meet, when Elec comes to live temporarily with his estranged dad and his new family. Even though they have technically been stepsiblings for a few years at that stage, they are complete strangers to one another, and while we see Greta looking forward to getting to know her new stepbrother, from the first moment Elec enters his new home, he does so with an air of disapproval and rebellion. And his main target seems to be the very person who is most enthusiastic about his arrival—Greta. The more young Greta tries to make him feel welcome in his new home, the more scorn and rejection she suffers at the hands of her new stepbrother. And yet, she never gives up, her innate kind-heartedness successfully bringing down Elec's defensive walls, one brick at a time. •The meaner he was to me, the more I wanted to make him like me.

What may be one person's treasure may well be another's . . . well you get the gist. After all the raving and 5-star reviews, I decided to join the crowd. But for me, this one just didn't live up to its hype and hit its mark. In fact, it was an epic disappointment. This book is written in two-parts — with a seven year separation between. Greta and Elec (every time I read his name I wished it had just been Alec ) are step-siblings and meet for the first time when they are seniors in high school and then it picks up again when they are 25. In much of the book the h/h are apart — Elec in California and Greta in NYC. Both find new relationships and life moves on. A family death brings them face-to-face once again. The whole premise of forbidden love truly wasn't even an issue here in my opinion. They are step-siblings — no blood relation — and didn't even meet until they were 18 years old. And Elec lived in the same house for several months only. Basically, they were total strangers. So take out that taboo element and you've just got two teenagers living under the same roof with a bad case of lust. They toss around a lot of trash talk and play silly tricks on each other. The parents are oblivious to all the nonsense and there are certain instances where they should have been front and center. They seem to completely ignore their kids and offer no

supervision. I was astonished at their lack of intervention. To me, that was the biggest forbidden issue. Elec had some pretty good lines of dialogue. He definitely had the tormented bad boy image going on. And his reasons for the bad behavior he exhibited were to some extent justified; but in others not so much. And it didn't matter whether or not he was 18 or 25. Same goes for Greta.

What can I say. Penelope Ward had done it again!!! There is a reason why she will always be one of my favorite authors. She knows how to create a story and characters that live on in your mind even after you are done with the book. She has BLOWN me away with Stepbrother Dearest. I have read every book she has written and I fall in love them more and more as she releases them. I always wonder how she will top her last book, but never worry because she always does!!!! Her books just keep getting better and better. Her writing style is effortless and smooth and you just get lost in her stories. I know that when I start her books it is going to be a long night of reading for me. What I loved about this book was she took a taboo subject and created a great love story out of it. Her character development is spot on and you can't help but get swept up in the emotions these two people were feeling. She had me laughing, smirking, yelling, blushing, and ugly crying!!!! I LOVE when a book does that to me. This story is written over the course of a 7 year span. We first meet Elec and Greta when they are 17 years old and are forced to live with each other because Elec's mother is going away for awhile and sends him to live with his father and new family. I have to say at first Elec was not my favorite Hero of Penelope's. He was mean, rude, and crass. He wasn't afraid to say what he was thinking whether or not it was appropriate. Even with saying that, I couldn't wipe the smile off my face whenever I read about him. There was just something about him that sucked me in and by the end I was totally in love with him. During this time Elec and Greta actually get to know each other and become close.

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