

Four or Dead by G O A Chapter 16 - 20

Chapter 16

Emma...present...

"Emma Grace please report to the Vice Principal's office." My name came echoing out of the school loudspeaker in the middle of class.

Several people turned and looked at me, but I ignored their immature reactions.

I sighed and grabbed my stuff before heading toward my class door. Once outside though someone grabbed my arm and I turned to see Leo.

"What are you doing?" I asked him.

"I am not letting you go alone." He said seriously and took my hand. 2

I didn't bother arguing with him and turned to continue walking. When I arrive and pulled the door open I stopped to take in the scene. The Principal was sitting behind his desk with two men dressed in suits with no ties beside him.

"Miss Grace please come have a seat...Mr. Pierce, I am sure she can handle this conversation alone." The principal said not bothering to be subtle in his attempt to get rid of Logan. (11)

"Not a chance," Leo said walking in beside me.

We both took a seat across from the men and Leo reached over to take my hand and gave it a quick squeeze.

"Emma these men are detectives and they are investigating your claims toward your father." The Principal explained with a tone of annoyance. "They have some questions for you."

16

"Indeed we do and we do not require any more help so if you could please leave us to speak to Miss Grace alone that would be helpful." One of the detectives said to the principal.

1

He started to object. "She is a student at my school and requires an advocate while being interviewed." 2

"She is eighteen years old, a legal adult." The detectives reminded him. "She does not need anyone present to speak to us."

The principal gave me a look before standing and leaving the room muttering something under his breath. I turned my attention back to the detectives and swallowed nervously.

"Miss Grace we want to assure you that we are taking your case very seriously and do not wish to cause you any discomfort. However, if you are up to it we need a full account of what your father has done. Het has strongly insisted on his innocence and although your documented injuries paint a picture of the amount of pain you endured,

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we can not prove he was behind them. You were not able to make a detailed statement at the hospital so we hoped you could now.” One of the detectives said.

“So, you’re saying that if she can’t prove her father was the one who hurt her, you won’t be able to charge him?” Leo asked.

“We take these cases very seriously but it is difficult to charge someone based on word alone. A history of

reported violence with physical proof would make her case stronger, but since there have been no

previous reports of abuse it is harder to make a case that will result in a long incarceration period.” The detective admitted.

“And how do you expect her to make a better case? Send her back to him and film him beating the crap out of her? Would that be enough proof to appease the court? Or how about when he goes too far and kills her?” Leo’s voice grew angry and I tried to calm him with a gentle squeeze of his hand but he was right.

“It’s ok Leo,” I said softly.

“No, it’s not Emma! They are saying there is nothing they can do because it’s your word against your father. They are going to let him go!” Leo all but yelled and turned his attention back to the detectives. with a look of disgust.

I turned to them as well. “Is that true? You’re going to just let him go?”

The detectives lowered their eyes for a moment. “I’m sorry Miss Grace but without substantial evidence

and documented history, the case is weak. We can provide you with a restraining order but at this time there isn’t much more we can do. We will continue investigating him but until we find something worth

charging.....yes we have to release him.” The detective said with an apologetic look.

B

I let out a small laugh of disbelief. “So my father walks free and I have to watch over my shoulder until he comes for me.”

I stood then. “Then there isn’t any point telling you everything he has done since I can’t prove any of it except for the injuries you already know about. Thank you for telling me, I’ll be sure to watch my back. Come on Leo let’s go.”

Leo stood giving the detectives one last angry look before following me out of the office.

He stopped me and pulled me into a hug when we were safe in the hall.

“I’m so sorry Emma, but you aren’t alone anymore. We will protect you.” He said confidently.

I wrapped my arms around him and hid my face in his shoulder. I missed his scent so much during our years apart and it was exactly the kind of comfort and familiarity I needed. After a few moments in silence, I pulled away.

“I know you guys will try but Leo there are no guarantees. My father is a powerful man

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and has a lot of connections. He will find a way to get to me.” I told him.

“I won’t let that happen, Emma! Never.” Leo insisted.

I nod but I knew that if it came down to it, my father would kill them all to get me back. I didn’t bother telling Leo this or why but he didn’t need to know. If my father ever did find me I would finish what I started the day I put that gun to my head. There was no way I would fulfill the promises my father had made for my future. They would kill him for letting me go and I would be glad if they did, but then they would come for me themselves.

There was nowhere I could run but it was sweet of Leo to offer. If for a moment the boys could be in danger though all bets were off. I would surrender before I let them get hurt because of me.

1

“Come on let’s get back to class,” Leo said grabbing my hand and threading our fingers together.

We walked silently back to class just as it was ending and the other boys stood quickly and surrounded me.

“What happened?” Logan asked glancing me up and down as if to check if I was hurt.

“What happened?” Logan asked glancing me up and down as if to check if I was hurt.

I rested a hand on his arm. “I’m fine Logan. The police just wanted to talk to me.”

“They are letting her father go,” Leo growled through his clenched jaw.

I turned and gave him a pointed look as the others let out a string of curses and threats.

“Guys there is nothing that can be done. The police said as much.” I said turning to head to my next class.

1

Logan catches up to me and wraps his arm around me. “Babe I won’t let your father anywhere near you. I will kill him if he touches you again.”

I quirked a brow at him. “Babe?”

He flashed me his million-dollar smile. “Yeah! You’re our girl!”

2

I looked at him again with furrowed brows. “Your girl? What do you mean? How did asking for help mean I become your girl? Is that the price I have to pay for your help? Give you myself?”

He looked at me in confusion. “Wait Emma it’s not like that. I just meant...”

1

“What Logan? Is that the only reason you agreed to help me so you could pass me around? How does that make you guys any better than the men I need protection from?” My head was racing, and my heart hurt.

Had they planned to use me? How long would I have to give my body to them to pay for their help?

I looked at the others. Asher and Jayden both had unreadable expressions and Leo

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wouldn't meet my eye.

I scoffed in disbelief and pushed past them.

"Emma!" Leo called out running up to me and grabbing my arm to stop me. "Come on that isn't what Logan meant."

"No? Then how did he mean it? What does it mean to be The Dark Angel's girl huh? I doubt that only includes protection. You guys want something from me, and I can't believe after everything those men did to me you want me in the same way. You want to take from me the only thing I should have a choice to give, just like them. This was a mistake, I should have never asked for your help." I didn't wait for him to reply before walking away.

I had actually thought they had changed, that they cared about me now. I couldn't have been more wrong.

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Four or Dead by G O A Chapter 17

Chapter 17

Leo... Present...

"What the hell were you thinking Logan? We just got her to trust us and you do this? You are too busy trying to lay claim to her that you didn't even think about how it would sound to her! She thinks she is The Dark Angel's whore!" I yelled at him as we stood on the front steps waiting for Emma.

She had hidden from us for the rest of the day no doubt using her old methods of avoiding running into

"Where is she?" Jayden asked yet again. "She should have come out by now."

"I don't know! She had a way of getting around to avoid us all these years, she could be anywhere by now!" I was seething and my mind was going crazy worrying about her that I couldn't help but snap at my friends.

"We don't think she is our whore Leo, calm down. Logan used a poor choice of words but none of us see

her that way." Asher said with a sharp tone.

"You didn't exactly speak up to refute it either." I reminded him.

"She was upset. She wouldn't have believed me even if I denied it. I had hoped after she cooled off she would see that it wasn't true." Asher replied with a sigh.

"I don't see her as some girl I want to use and throw away Leo and you know it! I...care about her," Logan admitted with a hard swallow.

I knew Logan well enough that he meant every word of that. He wouldn't admit such a thing unless it were true.

"As much as it pains me to say it, we all do," Jayden added.

"You guys are too busy playing tough to realize she isn't like other girls you can treat badly and they just keep running back. She is scared especially after what the cops said today. She probably thinks she has no one she can trust again. We may not be able to find her." I said pacing and cursing.

"We will find her," Asher assured me.

"No, you won't." We turned to see Andrea standing at the top of the stairs with her hands on her hips and a smirk on her lips.

"Andrea what did you do?" Logan growled out stalking up to her.

She smiled at him. "Just reminded her where she belongs in this school. I told you that I wouldn't just be thrown aside, not because of that rat."

"Tell us where she is Andrea or..."

"Or what Leo? You guys can't touch me!" She said confidently. "I know your daddy has

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plans on screwing with my family Asher, so you have nothing on me. All the information you got from me has been me feeding you false tips. I am not as stupid as you think I am!"

Asher sighed and stepped up to her. "You think you have one-upped me, Andrea? Then you are exactly as stupid as I thought you were. Now cut the crap and tell us where our girl is!"

She scoffs. "Your girl? How does that work? Do you all screw her together or take turns?"

Logan moved faster than I could and he harshly grabbed Andrea by the throat. "Tell me where she is. You are trying my patience."

Andrea's eyes widened with shock and she clawed at his hand.

"Now!" Logan yelled at her.

"In the basement." She garbled out just as her face started to turn the slightest shade of purple.

Logan let her go and she fell to the floor. He leaned over her and smirks.

"If you ever touch Emma again I won't let go and your little crew will watch as I kill you. Got it?" He

threatened.

"Yes." She said staring daggers at him.

I ran past them and through the front doors and down the hallway with the others quickly behind me. We passed several students as we weaved our way through the halls and toward the door leading to the basement. The door was locked but it didn't stop me from trying to break it open with all my strength.

"Emma!" I called out hoping she could hear me.

I rested my ear on the door to listen for any reply or any sound at all but it was too thick.

Logan ran up beside me fumbling with a ring of keys trying to find the right one. It took five different keys before he found the right one and as soon as the door was opened we push our way in and ran down the corridor of pipes and steam in search of Emma.

"Emma!!!" Logan called out. "I don't hear anything."

"Emma!" I cried out again but it was a maze in there and we couldn't see her anywhere.

"Wait! Do you hear that?" Jayden asked making us fall silent.

We all listened carefully and the sounds of metal hitting metal caught our attention.

"This way!" Jayden said taking off in the direction of the sound with us close behind.

We rounded the next corner and we slowed when Emma came into view. The moment I saw what Andrea

and her crew had done I felt sick to my stomach.

"Oh god, Emma!" I said running up to her.

She hung from a pipe locked by cuffs around her wrists. Her clothes had been slashed and the word 'rat whore' was written across her chest with lipstick and she had a gag in her mouth. Tears streaked down her face and I tried to quickly figure out how to get her

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down. She whimpered when I hesitated to touch her but I couldn't reach the cuffs from where I was, so I pulled myself up and stood on a low hanging pipe. I pulled on the cuffs trapping her though my right mind knew that there is no way I could break them.

"Find something we can cut the cuffs with!" I yelled to the others and they took off in different directions.

I pulled the gag out of Emma's mouth and she started to openly cry.

"Emma, we're here ok? We are going to get you out of this." I promised her.

Now that I was closer though I could see that Andrea and her friends hadn't only cut Emma's clothes but

cut her as well. There were cut marks in the same areas of the sliced clothing and I curse and pull the clothes aside a little to see how badly she was hurt. The cuts were shallow and the bleeding was light but there were at least eight slash marks.

"T-they said two things draw out rats...trash and blood." She said in a rough voice and my eyes snapped to hers. They wanted to rats here to finish what they started."

I swallowed and reached out with one hand to cup her face. "Emma we are going to get you out of here ok?

Just hang on."

I examined the pipes she was attached to and tried to see if any of them were corroded enough to knock loose. My eyes noticed a hint of rust on the pipe connection that wrapped around the corner of the wall, but it was too far to help get Emma down.

"I got something!" Logan called out running towards us.

He carried what looked like a hand saw and my eyes meet his. "Are you insane?"

"I couldn't find anything else, and it doesn't seem like our janitor uses traditional tools to fix things down

here," Logan said shaking his head.

I jumped down and stepped up to him with my back to Emma. "We could cut her hand off if we use that or

worse," I said with a low growl.

"I know but I couldn't find much else and I didn't think you wanted her to hang there until we could find someone with bolt cutters which I am assuming would be difficult in a school." He said with as much anger as I was showing. (3)

I closed my eyes and tried to calm myself. "Fine but this is probably the worst idea you have ever had."

"I know but I can't see her like that. We need to get her down." He pushed past me and looked up at

Emma.

"Emmy I know this may seem crazy but I am going to get you down from there. I just need you to trust me on this, okay?" He said keeping the saw out of her sight.

Jayden and Asher showed up then and looked to Logan and then to me.

"What the..." Asher started to say but I shook my head to warn him not to say anything.

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He looked at me wide-eyed but nodded in understanding.

“Emma I need you to look at me, okay? Keep looking at me.” Jayden said stepping up to her..

Her eyes met his. “Okay.” She said with a shaky voice.

He reached up and gently rubbed up and down her side. “Just watch me.”

Logan climbed up and examined the cuffs before lining the blade of the saw. He closed his eyes tight for a second and took a deep breath. When he opened his eyes again he furrowed his brow in concentration and began to saw back and forth. Emma whimpered a little at the sound but she kept her eyes fixed on Jayden. Logan took his time trying to keep the saw as far away from Emma as possible and it felt like time slowed as we waited to see if his idea would work. It took a few minutes but then we heard the metal saw hit the pipe and Logan moved quickly to get Emma’s arm free. Asher and I rushed to her and held her up as her arm fell free but her other arm was still trapped. 13

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Four or Dead by G O A Chapter 18

Chapter 18

Jayden...Present...

Logan immediately jumped down and walked around us to climb up and work on the other cuff.

"Just a little longer Emma," I said softly holding her up the best I could on the other side.

Logan worked faster this time, but Emma let a groan of discomfort. Hanging from one hand was hurting her even with us doing our best to hold her up. Logan finished quicker on the second arm and Emma's body tumbled down and into Asher's arms. She automatically wrapped around him and started to cry. Asher was a bit surprised at first but quickly recovered and wrapped his arms around her waist and took a step back.

"Let's go home." He said softly to her and turned in the direction of the exit.

I glanced at Leo and Logan as we shared the same expression of relief. The sentiment was short-lived, and Logan's expression quickly turned deadly as his anger resurfaced.

"That slut is going to pay for this!" He spat out before storming off to follow Asher.

I let out a sigh and followed Leo toward the exit of the basement. When we all exited and made our way out, I noticed people pointing and watching Asher and Emma. Emma was walking on her own now, but Asher had his arms around her helping keep her stable.

"Get out of here!" Leo yelled to the people looking on.

People scrambled away as the five of us made our way down the hallway and out the front door. It was nice to see the fear in their eyes because if they thought for one second that they could go up against us they were going to be sorely mistaken. We didn't go easy, and people always paid in blood. Andrea had crossed a line that no one had dared cross before, and I didn't care who her father was she would pay greatly for this. My mind began to come up with several ways I would make her hurt as I made my way to the car.

I saw Asher climb into the back seat of his car and take a seat next to Emma. She moved closer to him and rested her head on his shoulder. Asher didn't hesitate this time and pulled her closer to him. Leo and Logan took the other car and I climb into the driver's seat of the car Asher and Emma were in. Asher held out the keys to me and I look at him through the rear-view mirror. His attention was completely on Emma. and there was a softness to his face that looked foreign on his face.

Any show of kindness was foreign to all of us, but when it came to Emma it was obvious that we were not

quite ourselves. She had a way about her that broke down all our walls, even a dark

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soul like mine. Of

course, she didn't know just how dangerous we were, and hopefully, she would never find out. She was innocent and she didn't need to know the awful things we had done.

As I pulled out, I noticed Leo and Logan turned in the opposite direction. 3

A minute later my phone vibrated and I saw it was a message from Logan. They were going after Andrea, and they wanted us to take Emma home and stay with her. Leo sent a message too before I could reply to the first message.

LOGAN: We are going to the garage. Make sure Asher knows. We may need a cleanup crew.

I smirked at his message, but I knew they wouldn't kill Andrea at least not yet. Her death would bring too much heat to the town and we didn't want that. Plus we would need to plan that kind of move very well,

and this was too short notice. I hated that girl, and I was looking forward to getting my chance to torture her. She deserved the best our crew had to offer, and we always delivered.4

By the time we arrived back home, Emma had drifted off to sleep. Asher woke her gently and helped her inside and up to her room. I followed and stood in the doorway watching her carefully. She was dazed while Asher offered her one of Logan's shirts that had been left in her room this morning. She nodded and allowed Asher to remove her ruined shirt and my eyes fell onto the scars littering her back. I examined each one the best I could because if I ever got my hands on her father, I would replicate the very scars he

had inflicted on her. 4

You know...an eye for an eye and all that jazz.

Asher hesitated for a moment and was speaking softly to Emma before he lifted his hand under the shirt, careful not to touch her skin, and helped her lower her jeans. An intense emotion flared up in my chest, but I kept silent. Asher pulled back her blanket and she climbed under it. I noticed her body shook a little. Asher stepped away from her and walked toward me.

"She's exhausted," Asher whispered to me as we left the room closing the door behind us.

"Do you think she'll be okay? I mean how much can she take before she can't recover?"

I asked him not expecting an answer.

"We were supposed to protect her," Asher growled before slamming his hand on the stair railing.

"I know but she ran off, we had no idea Andrea would do this," I reminded him.

"Didn't we? She threatened her right in front of us. I guess I just assumed she wouldn't dare cross us knowing who we are. But she is obviously not bright. He said shaking his head.

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“Leo and Logan are going after her now,” I said and his head snapped toward me.
“The garage?” He asked and I nodded.
He picked his pace and grabbed his keys off the table..
“Asher they can handle this,” I called out after him.
“This is my mess; she was my girlfriend. I need to be the one to fix this and remind her not to come near us or Emma again.” He ran out the front door closing it with a slam.
I sighed and fell onto the nearest couch. The sound of footsteps had me jumping to my feet again, and my eyes were met with Emma coming down with only Logan’s shirt covering her. I swallowed down the very large knot in my throat and tried my very best to fix my eyes on her face.
“You okay?” I asked her.
“Yeah, I just don’t want to be alone. Can I sit with you?” she asked motioning her hand toward the couch.
“Oh. Yeah, that’s fine.” I replied awkwardly.
She stepped down from the stairs and walked around me, but I took a moment to collect myself before. turning to her. My heart was beating like crazy and other parts of me were betraying me as well. Why did Asher have to run off and leave me with this girl in only a t-shirt? I seethed and cursed him in my mind. I took a seat and tried to put some space between us and turned the TV on as quickly as I could. She fell silent as I flipped through a few channels, but I was too busy watching her through the corner of my eyes to really pay attention. She tucked one of her legs under herself and it made her look so small.
Yep, this girl had an annoying effect on me, or I had just denied myself so long that being alone with a girl in this state of undress was too much. Of course, none of that was true. I had girls show up at parties with far less clothing and would have easily been with me if I asked. Emma was just different. She was beautiful of course, but she also had a softness to her even with all the scars. Even now her face was relaxed and focused but in such a gentle way. She had a slight blush to her cheeks at all times and long eyelashes that made her eyes look so big and bright.
Oh man...this wasn’t good. I needed to get my head on straight before I started sprouting sonnets. 5
“What would you like to watch?” I asked her.
She tilted her head and looked at me flashing a soft smile. “Whatever you want.”
I nodded and turned my attention to the TV again, and I had the dumb idea to pick my favorite scary movie. Ok maybe I picked it on purpose, but I would deny it if anyone asked about why. The movie started and Emma watched quietly until the first jump scare and she yelped and covered her eyes. I snickered at little and she threw me a glare.
“Why would you choose a movie like this?” She whined adorably and pulled the neck of

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the shirt up over half of her face so could easily use it to hide. 3

“You said I could pick whatever I wanted,” I said with a teasing smirk.

She glared at me but as the movie went on, she slowly moved closer to me until she was latched on to me and hid behind my arm. With the climax of the movie rolling around I knew how scared she would get so I was ready when she jumped and almost landed in my lap. I open my arms to her, and she crowded into me. with her eyes still focused on the movie. I caressed her arm softly as she watched tensely waiting for the next scary scene and I smiled to myself and patted myself on the back for choosing such a great movie.

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Four or Dead by G O A Chapter 19

Chapter 19

Logan...Present...

"Andrea...Andrea...all this screaming isn't going to make any of this any easier. No one can hear you out here." I say with a shake of my head.

This girl was even more annoying with a little pain added to the conversation. She had been screaming like a banshee since the first hit. I had a thing about not hitting women, but we had a way around that. A way called Tabitha, one of the toughest women I knew. We called her in to handle the feminine beatings. because we still had our morals. That thought made me smirk. We had almost zero morals left but we could kill Andrea in a second with how angry we were right now and that wasn't the plan...for now.

We needed to send a warning, hence Tabatha. She would serve up a good beating and then we would drop the slut on her family's doorstep. We were sending a message to her but also her father. He needed to get in line or next time his daughter would die, but we also get justice first Emma which was all I cared about.

I may have worded things the wrong way to Emma but as far as I was concerned, she was our girl. Maybe long before now. I had written off my past behavior to being an annoying prick to torment her, but I think I fell for her the moment I saw her. So much of me wanted her especially after the kiss we shared. That kiss was the nail in the coffin of my heart, as sappy as that sounds. I would never want another girl, and I would kill anyone who tried to take her from me.

Andrea should be counting her blessings that she is worth more alive than dead otherwise I would have shot her point-blank the moment I saw her face again.

"Let me go! When my father finds out about this you guys are all dead!" Andrea shouted before Tabatha backhanded her again making her cry out.

"Andrea your little threats mean nothing. We could have killed you on the steps of the school and got away with it. We are giving you a chance here to be smart. Your father is going to receive a call at 9 AM tomorrow. He will answer that call and agree to all terms if your life means anything to him." Leo said stepping forward with a bored expression on his face.

He looked as cold and distant as Jayden and Asher put together right now and it made a smile creep up on my face. I loved dark Leo and thanks to the new addition of our angel girl into the group, we were seeing dark Leo at full force. He meant business when it came to protecting our girl and I was all for it. There was no point in denying it, Emma was ours. She may deny the title for now but we would help her see she belonged with us, not because she needed us, we needed her. We were her's as much as she was ours. She had a hold on us that she didn't even realize yet but when she

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did, she would discover how much power she really held. The thing was, we held no loyalty to Asher's father. We were loyal to Asher completely and tolerated his father, but none of us wanted this life. We

planned to get out once we had enough money to start over somewhere maybe on another continent. Asher had been treated well by his father but was expected to do his bidding and take over one day.

6

Asher hated this life as much as us, but we were brought in because we had nothing else. Asher begged for his father to help us, but we signed our life away in doing it. He hated that, and he hated the things his father made him do. So, we all came up with a plan to get out, but now there was Emma. Her father was a well-known man and he had money and connections that would make it easy for him to find Emma no matter where we went. 2

matter where we went.

We could keep her safe, but he would just keep coming. Now we needed to revise our plan to earn Emma's freedom. That was a complication we still had to figure out, so until then we were stuck here. We wouldn't leave without her though, so we needed to figure that out and quick.

"My father isn't going to roll over and hand Devaro anything!" Andrea spit out along with a stream of blood.

Gross.

Right, she was still here.

"My father doesn't take no for an answer, Andrea, you best get that through your head right now." Asher's voice echoed behind us as he walked in.

"Ah bro you missed the best part! She was screaming like she was standing at death's door earlier." I said slapping him on the back.

He huffed. "I have heard her scream and it isn't that impressive."

I laughed wholeheartedly and even more so when Andrea growled in anger. She was so easy to rile up.

"But you know who's screams are the sweetest?" I asked him.

"Emma's," Asher said offering Andrea a smirk. 1

Her eyes widened and instantly filled with rage.

Of course, none of us had ever had the pleasure of making our girl scream in that way yet but Andrea didn't know that. Even so, I didn't peg our angel as a screamer even in pleasure. She was too shy for that, but I had no doubt it wouldn't be any less memorable. I let my mind wander to those thoughts while Andrea spewed a bunch of stuff at Asher about him being a cheater or something.

"Look Andrea tell your father he has run out of chances and your beating is an example of how far we are willing to go for his cooperation. Next time you won't be breathing."

Asher said only inches from her face. "Tabatha here will finish up and drop you off at

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home. Thanks, Tabby, you're the best!"

Tabatha smiled sweetly at him and hugged him. "Anything for you!" She said.

She was an amazing woman for sure and we adored her. She was a mother to all of us and ruthless in her own right. We all said our goodbyes to her and filed out of the soundproofed office in the back of the garage.

"You left our girl with Jayden? You know how he is." I said to Asher as we climbed into his car.

"Are

you kidding? He's as whipped for her as you two." Asher said with a laugh.

"Please you mean the three of us. You are just as soft for our girl don't play that tough and untouchable. act with us." I said smacking him from the back seat.

"Well, you guys can fawn all you want but I call dibs on her. I met her first, so I claim all her firsts from here on out, so get in line." Leo said resting his head back on his seat with his eyes closed.

I laughed hard at that. "You call dibs? She isn't a plaything Leo and besides, I already got my kiss with her and she likes me better so it will be you guys waiting in line."

Leo turned to me. "You pissed her off, and it will take a lot more than sweet-talking to get back in her good graces."

"Don't think so, she is too sweet to hold a grudge," I said throwing him a wink.

He shook his head and turned back in his seat.

"She will make the rules and you all better respect that or I swear I am kicking you all out of my house."

Asher threatened.

I gave out a surprised chuckle. "And you say you're not whipped."

We went back and forth on this topic until we pulled into the driveway. Asher took off ahead of us with a determined look on his face.

"If I didn't know you any better Ash, I would say you seem worried." I teased.

He didn't respond as he opened the front door ready to storm in and come to Emma's rescue but he froze

right there in the doorway causing me to slam into his back.

I curse and stepped back ready to lay into him for being such an idiot, but he seemed completely dazed. I

looked over his shoulder and muffled a laugh. He was frozen with jealousy apparently because there on the couch was Emma in my shirt curled up on Jayden's lap. She was asleep and Jayden was resting his

head on hers as he watched TV. He had his arms wrapped around her as well.

Leo moved past Asher with his phone out and directed it at the pair.

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"I am building quite the collection of pictures." He said with a sly smile.
I quirked a brow at him. "What does that mean?" 3
He smiled and turned his phone to me where a picture of me cuddling with Emma filled up the whole screen. My eyes went wide, and he snickered.
"Like I said, a nice collection. Two down and one to go." He said heading upstairs.
I smeared then turned my attention back to Asher who had stormed off to the kitchen.
He pulled out a
beer from the fridge and took a big swig of it.
"You're not seriously jealous, are you?" I asked him only half teasing.
He scoffed. "No, why would I be?"
"Ash you know how hard it is for Jay to open up to people. This is a big deal, so don't ruin it because of
your possession issues. She is an angel now and with that, we need to learn to share." I reasoned with him surprising even myself.
He clenched his jaw and I shook my head.
"Ash it's like you said, we have to let her choose and set the pace with us." I reminded him.
He sneered. "Yes, I'm fine as long as no other guy outside of our group touches her. If that happens I can't promise that I won't beat the crap out of him."
I laughed a little. "Same brother. It may take time for her to get used to all this, being shared with multiple guys might be weird for her. It's not often that one girl would be cool with sharing herself with four different guys. 5
He looked at me for a moment. "Since when are you so wise?"
I let out a genuine laugh and shrugged. "We all share one brain cell when it comes to the wisdom thing, guess it was my turn."
He laughed grabbing his beer and heading toward the stairs. I follow him up and we parted ways to go to our respective rooms. I didn't admit it, but I was a little jealous since my cuddle moment with Emma had been while we weren't even awake. I needed to make it up to Emma for what I said because there was no way Jayden would become her favorite.

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Four or Dead by G O A

Chapter 20

Emma...Present...

"Sweet Emma, your father promised that you'll be mine soon but at least I can have you today. I will make you feel so good..." I jolted awake and sat up instantly, my heart raced and my breaths were quick and panicked.

I swallowed hard and tried to push away the memories of his hands on me. He tried to do what he thought would make me enjoy the moment he was stealing from me, but it just made me feel sicker. I would have fought but my father warned me that the man hovering over me was a far more dangerous man than him.

My stomach clenched and ached as I continued to play those moments over and over in my mind until I couldn't handle it any longer. I scrambled from the bed I was in and ran to the bathroom and unloaded the small contents of my stomach. My tears came rushing out as I heaved over the toilet.

"Emma? Emma! What's wrong?" I glanced up to see Jayden rush toward the bathroom. I took a moment to clear my throat before answering.

"I-it's nothing. My stomach is just upset." I told him.

1

"Are you sure? You were moving a lot during the night." I couldn't tell him why, so I gave him a half-smile.

"It's nothing I promise." He watched me carefully before nodding and helping me to my feet.

When we went down for breakfast I didn't eat and gave the others the same line about my stomach bothering me. They looked concerned but didn't force the issue which was a relief. The ride to school was silent too and I could sense the guys throwing me worried glances, but I couldn't meet their eyes.

There were secrets I still hadn't shared, and I was stupid enough to think that I could forget about it all and move on, but I was wrong. That's the thing about scars, even the ones you can't see, they never leave you. A sick bastard took my virginity and wanted to take the rest of my life too and was willing to pay a large sum for me. The summer before senior year had been one of the hardest for me and I hadn't told anyone just how bad it was. My father woke me up one morning and spoke softly and sweetly to me which should have caused red flags to go up in my mind right away, but I didn't think too much of it. He did that sometimes after he let his anger get away and gave me a beating that was a little too far.

That day he cooked me breakfast and treated me so kindly. I thought maybe this was the day he realized how awful he had been and that he was going to change. I was wrong. He handed me a bag full of soaps and salts and perfume and told me to take a

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long bath and use all the new stuff he got me. I felt uneasy. about it but did as he asked. When I was finished, he was in my room waiting with another bag on the bed. in my room. I wrapped my towel tighter to me and his eyes roamed over my body making me feel sick to my stomach. He made a sound of approval and he walked over to me and handed me the bag.

He instructed me to wear what was in the bag and even how I should style my hair and makeup.

When I looked inside the bag my blood ran cold. Inside was red lingerie, and I looked up at him in horror. He smirked and told me that we would be having a special guest over for my birthday. Someone I would have to make happy because he would be having a taste of his investment and I was not to ruin it. Even without asking a question I knew what he was saying. His friends had done many things to me over the years, but they could never go all the way, my father wouldn't allow it. I figured out in that moment that he had been planning on selling me for that big event and for more than that apparently.

He walked to the door but left me with a warning. The man was less forgiving and less kind, so I needed to be on my best behavior."

All the memories from that night were now fresh in my mind and after what had happened yesterday with Andrea and the others, my head was crashing into a dark place fast. As soon as the car pulled to a stop in front of the school I quickly got out and rushed over to a nearby bush and doubled over heaving my nonexistent breakfast. It had been a good plan to skip breakfast, or it would have been all over me.

"Emma!" Leo ran over and pulled my hair back.

The others were not far behind and I felt Logan running his hand up and down my arm gently. I closed my eyes tight trying to tell myself that these were The Angel's, not that man. I was safe. But Logan's touch was making me feel sick with all the memories in my head. I flinched back from them and gave them a look that I could see instantly crushed them, but I couldn't help it. I turned and took off toward the entrance of the school and ran straight to the bathroom.

Jayden...

Something was wrong with Emma; we all knew it by the way she was acting but we just didn't know what to do. She was quiet and we didn't want to push her, but whatever was bothering her must have been hell for her to be reacting like this. The way she looked at Leo and Logan when she pulled away from their touch sent up a signal in my head that this was something serious. I knew that look in her eyes, she was haunted. The whole night she had been tossing and turning and whimpering in her sleep. I had pulled her closer to me and that seemed to have calmed her but then when she woke up, she was different.

"What was that?" Logan asked confused.

"Something is wrong. She looked...scared of us." Leo said.

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"I think she was having some kind of nightmare last night, and then when she woke up, she immediately ran to the bathroom. Whatever she saw in that dream was traumatizing for her." I told them.

Leo swallowed hard and fidgeted, feeling guilty I assumed. He was feeling guilty the more we found out about Emma. He blamed himself for everything that happened to her since they met, even though there was nothing that could change those things now.

"Come on. Let's go in." Asher said turning to the front steps and leading us inside.

We sat in our usual place and Emma appeared right as class was starting. She avoided our eyes and kept her head low. We didn't try to talk to her, but we shared repeated glances trying to figure out what to do. Unfortunately, we weren't exactly experienced in this field. When class ended, she walked out without waiting for us and we gave her some space but kept our eyes on her. She rummaged through her locker and slammed a book inside.

"Hey! You're Emma, right?" Our eyes snapped to the guy who had just approached her.

"Uh yeah." She replied in her naturally sweet voice.

"Oh great! I'm Kyle. We have a few classes together." He said with a smile that made me want to punch him hard.

Emma tilted her head as if to examine him for familiarity. "Oh! Yes! I remember now. I'm so sorry, my mind is mess today."

She let out a nervous laugh and I sneered.

"It's cool. So, I was wondering if you had a partner yet for the project in history class. I was late because of practice and missed out on picking someone." He said with one of those boyish grins that always had the girls melting or something.

"Oh yeah, the project. No, I don't have a partner so we can work together if you would like." She offered.

"Great! You are a lifesaver. Can I walk with you to your next class since I'm going that way too?" The guy had the nerve to ask her.

She tucked a hair behind her ear and lowered her head shyly. Dammit. He was loving her shy and sweet nature way too much and if he wasn't careful, he would lose all those teeth. 5

"Sure. That would be fine." She replied and like some world-grade prick, he grabbed her books and offered her his arm.

2

Emma obviously had not seen us and walked off with the guy toward her next class.

"What the hell! Who is that guy?" Logan asked.

"Some new kid. He enrolled when Emma was in the hospital." Asher replied.

"What is he doing? He has to know Emma is with us!" Logan growled out.

"If he does, he doesn't care, and that is a big mistake," Asher said with ice in his voice.

"Looks like we

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have to teach him a lesson.”

Yeah, we do.

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