

## Four or Dead by G O A Chapter 11 - 15

### Chapter 11

Logan...Present...

Standing in Emma's room had my heart racing. I tried so hard to push down my emotions because I needed people on the outside to see that nothing could touch me, but here and now I just couldn't. What people say is true, there is a fine line between love and hate. When I first saw Emma she looked like other girls raised in a wealthy family environment. Sure she didn't look as flashy as most of the other girls in the school but she just looked too perfect. Seeing her made the beast inside me growl in anger when she looked at me. It felt like in her eyes I was nothing more than the dirt under her shoe. So that day I made sure that she would feel as little as I did, but knowing what I know now I can't stop the guilt from eating me alive.<sup>6</sup>

She had been wearing a mask to hide the truth. She had been hurting even then and I hated her for no reason.

2

"It all looks so...normal," Jayden said glancing around the room.

Jayden and I were from similar backgrounds, orphans. He had a more broody quiet way of dealing while I preferred being loud and cocky, but we understood each other.

"Yeah, it does. Just like her. She always looked so normal, and yet...did you see the scars, Jay? There were so many." I asked walking deeper into Emma's room.

We had left Asher, Leo, and Emma back at our place

and Jayden and I decided to grab all of Emma's things. She told us she didn't want anything other than her clothes and a few personal items that she gave us a list for. Jayden wondered toward Emma's pink canopy bed that looked like she had kept it the same since she was a little girl, unless...no, I couldn't think about those men who touched her. If I did I would kill them all and not care one bit if I

was locked away, but she needed us, and being locked up would mean I couldn't help her. 4

"This room looks so wrong though right?" Jayden asked walking around and examining everything. "It looks like

it's right out of a catalog but nothing is new. It looks like she has had it all since she was a little girl. Even the stuffed animals don't look like anything kids play with now. It's as if her room was frozen in time or something."

I took another look around and I started to see what he meant. The

bed was white with a pink frilly canopy, and the bedding was white with little pink flower

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decals. The

furniture was all white with red details, and the stuffed animals all sat perfectly on the bed. I swear it looked like it came right out of a photograph.

"It doesn't even look like she ever even used any of this stuff," I pointed out slightly confused.

I noticed another door on the opposite wall and I

walked over to it to see what was inside, but something weird catches my eye. The door has a lock on the outside. I reach up to it and slip the lock away and open the door.

"Oh god," I said under my breath as I took in the scene.

Jayden cursed behind me and slammed his open hand on the nearby wall.

There were some clothes in the small closet but only a single pair of jeans, a sweater, and two shirts. The rest of the closet consisted of a couple of thin blankets piled together on the floor, a flat pillow, and a bucket.

"She...she slept in here?" I asked to no one in particular.

I closed my eyes as I felt my stomach turn at the horrible thoughts of what happened to her in this room. The bedroom must have been used for...the men who came to her. This closet was her real room. I shook my head and grabbed the few clothes and looked at the top shelf where the box she described sat. I grabbed it and held it in my shaky hands. I knew this was her private stuff but I opened it and swallowed hard at the few items inside. A beat—

up copy of *The Secret Garden*, a small bunny stuffed animal, and a photograph of a small girl and a beautiful woman.

My eyes shut again

as thoughts of my past tried to make their way into my mind. Jayden's hand on my shoulder pulled me out of my thoughts.

"Come on man let's get out of here," Jayden said.

I nodded and put the top back on the box and placed the clothes over it.

"Yeah let's go." I turned around and followed Jayden out, closing the door behind us.

The ride back was quiet and I was okay with that. I didn't want to talk right, not with my thoughts the way they were. I wanted to push this down by the time we got back home, and that meant struggling to bury it deep in my mind again. (3

When we walked into the front door we saw Leo and Asher lounging around in the living room with beers

in hand and I was ready to go off on them.

"Where is Emma?" I asked them through clenched teeth.

"She was exhausted, so we showed her to her room and she fell asleep as soon her head hit the pillow,"

Leo replied with a small smile on his face.

That guy was so whipped, it was a little embarrassing...for him.

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“How did it go? Did you get all her stuff?” Asher asked.

1

I scoffed and walked over placing the few items on the table in front of them.

“That’s it?” Asher asked looking at it and back to us.

“Yep. The rest...I would burn before I brought it here.” I said, my voice growing angry.

“Why?” Asher asked with furrowed brows.

“She slept in the closet. The rest

of her room looked like some pervert’s gross fantasy. She didn’t use any of it. All that w  
as hers were these few items and a few ratty

blankets. Asher, the door had a lock on the outside too.” Jayden told them.

Leo cursed as he ran his hand down his face. “I can’t believe

she went through all that and never told

anyone.”

“I don’t know how she had never tried to run before. How did she survive so long  
there?” I asked falling onto the

couch next to Leo and grabbing the beer in his hand before downing it. 3

“I did try once.” We all turn to see Emma coming down the stairs.

She offered us a shy smile before coming down the stairs and taking a seat next to the l  
arge couch.

“I tried once when I was fourteen to run away. My father told me he would be working lat  
e one day, so I told my teacher I was sick and lied saying my father was picking me up.  
I rode my bike as far as I could before I got too tired. I ended up at some park only a few  
miles away, and it had started to rain. I just sat on a bench and waited.” She pauses for  
a second and looked at Leo.

“Then a scrawny kid walked up to you and pulled you into a slide to shelter you from the  
rain,” Leo said

with a smile.

“Yeah. He was the first person to ever help me.” She said shyly. “Leo called his mom an  
d she drove me home after the rain stopped. When I walked in though, my father was p  
acing in the

sitting room waiting for me. He was furious. I guess my teacher had called him to see ho  
w I was doing and to let him know what I had missed.”

“He hurt you,” Asher said filling in the next part of her story.

She nodded. “The next day Leo found me in the

cafeteria, and we became friends after that. My father had beaten me pretty bad, and it  
discouraged me from ever trying to run away again.”

“Why didn’t you tell me then?” Leo asked carefully.

Emma sighed and lowered her head. “My father told me at an early age that no one car  
ed about me and would never believe me. He told me this since I was a little girl, and w  
hen no one seemed to notice I was hurt, I believed him.” 1

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“I’m so sorry Emma, I should have noticed something was wrong,” Leo said standing and kneeling in front of her taking her hands into his.

She shook her head. “No Leo, you were just a kid then too. There was nothing you could do to help me.”

“That won’t happen again, and this

time you have four of us on your side,” Leo assured her and the rest of us spoke up in agreement. “Your guardian angels.”

She glanced at each of us and smiled. “Thank you.” 2

1

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## **Four or Dead by G O A**

### **Chapter 12**

\*Three years ago...Freshman year...

Leo...

"Hey, Leo isn't that the weird girl you showed up with on our first day?" Andrea asked with a laugh.

I followed her line of sight and saw Emma walking toward her locker with her head low.

My stomach

churned at the guilt I felt for leaving Emma after I had promised her that We would stick together forever, but that was before. I needed these guys right now after my parents kicked me out. These guys had quickly

become my family and I had no plan B if it didn't work out. Besides, it's wasn't like the guys had actually hurt her. The girls were a little rougher but I hadn't seen them do more than tease her a little.

"She would be nice to look at if she tried, but like that she is forgettable," Logan said with a shrug.

"She is not pretty are you kidding? She is disgusting." Andrea said.

"We should help her out though Andrea don't you think?" One of Andrea's friends asked with a smirk.

Andrea smiled mischievously. "Yea, we should. See you boys! Think of me while I'm gone baby!" She

planted a kiss on Ashers lips before sauntering off.

"God she

is insufferable, explain to me again why you are dating that chick." Logan said with disgust.

"My dad wants to know what her father is investing in, and his plans for their company. I need to get close to her so I can get access to her father's home office." Asher explained yet again.

He had told us all this before but Logan liked to bring it up at least once a day.

"Has she invited you over yet? You guys have been together for three months now." Logan pointed out.

"Not yet, but it has to be soon. I mean she's been hinting to us being alone together when her father goes

on his next business trip." Asher said rolling his eyes.

"Ah, you are going to cash in that V-card huh?" Logan teases, elbowing Asher.

Asher gave him a pointed look and grimaced. "Hell no. I don't want her any closer to me than she is now. I give her the idea that I'm into it but I won't take it that far."

We all knew Andrea had lied about her sexual experience, but we didn't care. We had le

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arned everything about that girl but had to keep that fact secret.

“What if she notices your resistance?” Jayden asked.

“She has her head

in a cloud of perfume and delusion most of the time that she won’t notice a thing. I’ll come up with an excuse again.” Asher assured us.

“I personally want to explore the little lamb Leo brought on day one. Can you introduce me?” Logan asked eyeing Emma.

“Why?” I asked him.

“She has that whole untouched innocent thing going and you know I love the challenge of getting those girls falling at my feet,” Logan said wiggling his eyebrows.

“She

isn’t worth the time trust me.” I shrugged but my stomach clenched at the idea of Logan getting his hands on her.

Logan didn’t bother listening and took off after Emma and wrapping an arm around her.

“Hey Sunny! What do you say we have a study date? I need a little help in biology and you have all the right equipment.” Logan said using his cocky flirt voice.

She looked up at him in confusion. “Aren’t you in introductory science?” She asked.

I snorted and Logan turned and give me a deadly glare.

“Come on Logan she is hardly worth the time, she can’t satisfy your appetite,” Jayden said pushing between them and walking away.

It always surprised me when he would speak up against Emma since he barely bothered taking part in those kinds of things. When I turn my attention back to Emma she had her head low and she walked quicker and lost her around the next corner.

“Man you messed up my prospects! I

had her right where I wanted her.” Logan growled out but there was no real anger behind his words.

I have no idea what it was about Emma that had my friends in a fuss, but She had this way of pulling people toward her whether she wanted it or not. As much as she tried to make herself invisible, it just

wasn’t possible. That day I had found her in the rain it felt like a magnet was pulling me toward her, which

was why we spent as much time together as we could that whole year we were friends.

Then things fell apart and I didn’t want her to see me broken and alone so I pushed her away, but anytime I saw her my

eyes automatically followed her every move. So much of me wanted to apologize just so we could go back to the way we were, but I had burned that bridge and it was too late to change that.

“Jay is right Logan, the little girl is not worth all

the trouble. She is basically mute, what fun would that be?” Asher added.

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Logan laughed. "True I don't like my girls quiet." Again he wiggled his eyebrows suggestively and I shook my head.

Logan was the biggest flirt in

our group and had no problem getting the girls to fawn all over him. Jayden had that dark mysterious vibe going that made girls both want him and fear him. Asher had Andrea and

she was semi-

successful at keeping girls away from him with both threats and torment. As for me, I was

just along for the ride. I didn't put in much effort to hook up or meet girls, but because of the others, they were just always around. Not to say I had never

been with anyone, but it was nothing special and never lasted. As much as I knew how lame it sounded, Emma was the only girl I thought about.

We made our way to class and again my eyes fell on her the moment we entered. Logan slapped me on the shoulder and walked toward her falling into the seat beside her and giving her a devilish smile. She glanced up at

him but didn't acknowledge him beyond that.

"Playing hard to get Sunny? You should know I always get what I want."

Logan said confidently.

Emma again didn't respond and the rest of us took the remainder seats around her. Jayden grabbed the

notebook she is was writing in and skimmed through it.

2

"Such a studious little thing you are," Jayden said tossing the notebook back at her. "Won't help you though."

"So true, there is no hope for the little rat," Andrea said walking up to us and dropping in to Asher's lap. "Baby why

don't you come sit by me, and get away from the little sewer dweller."

Asher smiled fakely. "Yeah you're right, the air around here is hard to breathe in."

Andrea laughed and leaned closer to Emma and brushed her hair back. "Oh little rat, when will you learn that no one wants you here? Hm? Just scurry on back to your nest and don't come back."

I could see Emma's chest rising and falling but she still didn't lift her head to respond or even look at any of us. Andrea laughed and

pulled Logan and Jayden up and lead them away, and with one last glance at Emma, I followed. This was how almost all days passed between us and her but today Emma was

gifted with a bit of an extra stab when someone left a dead rat in her locker after lunch.

The thing fell to the ground as soon as she opened it and there was a note attached to it telling her to leave. She fell to her knees and cried as other kids whispered and laughed

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d when they passed her.

1

I glanced around

and saw Andrea and her crew laughing and filming it all. Some random guy ran up to her and helped her pick up her books and handed them to her, offering her help to stand. I saw red and rushed toward them pushing him away from her but the force of it had her stumbling to the ground again. She cried out in pain as her back slammed into the closest locker, and the guy looked up wide-eyed at me.

“Don’t go near her if you know what’s good for you. Got it?” I yelled down at him. 1

He looked toward Emma and gave her an apologetic look before standing and taking off. I turn to Emma and her tear-filled eyes lock with mine before she stood and ran down the hall.

4

“Alright shows over!” I yelled at the people nearby.

Once everyone’s attention was elsewhere I walked towards the nearest Janitor’s closet and grabbed a trash bag. I walked back to Emma’s locker and picked up the rat and threw it away behind the school. When I took a look around the dumpster I noticed something that looked familiar. I climbed over a couple of bags and grabbed the notebook that caught my eye. It was the one Emma was scribbling in earlier. I opened it and examined the pages and like Jayden had pointed out it was school-related but on the last page, there was a small note that didn’t belong.

‘Little bird, little bird fly to the sky. Heaven is calling you. Little bird, little bird keep trying until we stand together in unending light.’ 11

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## **Four or Dead by G O A**

### **Chapter 13**

Jayden...Present...

Emma had dozed off at some point and I had fallen into a trance as I watched her. She was beautiful even in sleep and I hated how I was so drawn to her. Unlike the other guys, I didn't take notice of such things since my interests didn't often involve girls. They seemed to flock to me like bees to honey, but I barely tolerated them. We had some kind of reputation of being dark playboys, but that was far from the truth. Andrea and her friends liked to boast about being with each of us, but I had never touched one of those girls in that way. I had a school sweetheart once upon a time but she was long gone along with the rest of my family.

She had been with me that day...the day I lost everyone. My father worked with Asher's dad and understood that it was a dangerous line of work. Me and my girl were glued together since we had been in diapers, and she was in my room with me when the men came. When I heard my mother's screams I shot up and almost immediately pulled my girl to her feet and quickly hid her in the closet. I opened my room door and ran to my father's study to find the gun he had hidden there. He had taught me how to use it for this very reason, but my head was in a panic and I fumbled with the lockbox longer than I should have.

The sounds of my mother's screams and cries were drowning me, but then a shot went off and everything fell silent. Another shot went off and my father started to yell my mom and sister's name, but with one more shot, his voice fell silent too. I focused on the box in my hand and finally typed in the right code in time to hear footsteps coming up the stairs. I needed to distract the men long enough for my girl to get out, so I stepped into the hallway and held my gun on them.

"Hey!" I cried out and the two men turned to me and laughed.

"Aw how cute. We got ourselves a hero." One of the men said laughing.

They both walked toward me and I saw my girl sneaking out behind them. A breath of relief left me but thankfully it wasn't loud enough to alert the men. I kept my gun pointed at them but a third man grabbed me from behind and one of the two in front pulled the gun away from me. The guy holding me was far stronger than my twelve-year-old strength, and he was able to drag me down the stairs. My eyes fell on the scene of my whole family in their own blood on the living room floor. I cried out for them but of course, no one answered.

"Hey guys look I found a little flower." A fourth man said dragging my girl from behind him and throwing her to the floor.

She cried out as she hit the floor and our eyes met before the man pulled her back by her hair.

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“No! Let her go!” I cried.

“No, I don’t think we will. You see we need to send a message, but it only takes one person to deliver it. You kid drew the winning card, which means everyone else lost.”

The man pulled out a gun from the back of his pants and shot my girl point-blank.

The men dropped me to the ground and left the way they came as if nothing had happened. I sat there alone unmoving until the police arrived, and didn’t speak a single word the entire time they questioned me. The only thing I said was for them to call Asher’s dad. When he arrived to get me with Asher in tow I ran to him and cried for the first time. He swore he would help me get my revenge and until then he would take me in. So that night I bunked with Asher and Logan for the first time.

Since then I hadn’t let any girl into my thoughts or heart, because being around me was dangerous. We still hadn’t figured out who it was that killed my family and as long as they were still out there no one was safe around me. The guys didn’t care that they could be in danger and we were all deadly now in our own right. We all underwent intense training over the years just like every other guy in our crew. Yet here was a girl who appeared out of nowhere and started turning our world upside down without even trying. Something was seriously screwed up with us to go from tormenting the poor girl to moving her in. In all honesty, I had no idea what was going on but she was here and none of us were in a hurry to let her go.

Her story triggered the protective side of us and we couldn’t sit around and do nothing. We were world- grade pricks but this changed things because I wasn’t the only one with eyes on the girl. Asher and Logan stole glances at her as well and there was a hint of jealousy at the way she was cuddled up to Leo. That’s what you get when you put four alpha males in one place with one pretty girl. Leo had a bond with her that none of us had, and I guess we were all a little annoyed by that. She seemed to trust Leo the most and he had let down his mask of fake disgust for her and fallen into whipped puppy mode. It was a little funny to see him that way since he was good at acting like he didn’t give a damn about anything.

I wouldn’t ever sink to that level but I was feeling something, something I hated.

Because feelings like this never led to anything good.

“I’ll take her to her room,” Leo said after the girl had been sleeping for some time.

Asher nodded to him, and Leo shifted slightly so he could pick her up. She immediately cuddled into his chest and he let a smile slip before heading toward the stairs.

“Uh gross,” Logan said with a scoff.

“You seem a bit put out by the way she cuddled up to Leo, you jealous?” Asher asked smirking at Logan.

“Hardly. It’s just embarrassing how Leo turned soft so easily because of one girl.” Logan said crossing his arms over his chest like a stubborn toddler.

“It’s obvious he had a thing for, so it shouldn’t be that big of a surprise.” I chimed in.

“Yeah well, I will never be whipped silly like him, not for any girl.” I shared a knowing

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look with Asher and we let our friend stew in his denial.

Logan wasn't one to get jealous so he wasn't very good at hiding it.

The three of us stayed put for a few more hours before turning in. Out of curiosity, I decided to stop by Emma's room to be sure she was sleeping comfortably. I opened the door to her room gently only to find her cuddled in Leo's arms, and they were both sleeping peacefully. I wasn't sure why I was so worried about the girl but seeing her sleep so peacefully made my heart flutter a little and I hated it. I also felt sorry for Leo, he was head over heels with our girl.

Wait...our girl? Dammit! The girl...Emma...whatever.

I shook my head and closed the door before rushing to my room. This girl was messing with my head and I was not happy about it.

Logan...

I tossed and turned the whole night thinking about how Leo and Emma had been sitting together all

cuddled and connu la

cuddled and sappy. It was disgusting. But...it also looked kind of nice. It had been ages since anyone had shown such affection toward me and seeing it made me ache for it.

Though I knew Emma would never feel comfortable enough around me to do such a thing so there was no point in hoping. I had been awful to her so I understood that I would have to go a long way before she would trust me.

I don't know why I cared so much if she trusted me or not, but I also had no idea why I had always had my eye on her. My pursuit of her was disguised as teasing and pointless flirting to make her uncomfortable. but the truth was I found her kind of fascinating. She was shy and quiet but also stronger than most. people. Even after everything we had all done to her she never stopped showing up, she just took it. I had to respect her for enduring all the things we did to her, and maybe that was why I was always seeking her out. To better understand her maybe, I wasn't sure.

It seems so silly now and I'm a little embarrassed by how clearly drawn to her I was.

Why else would I fixate on one girl even to tease her? Even now she was consuming my every thought, and I sighed in frustration. Tomorrow we would be going back to school, and Emma would be with us. I could only imagine the reactions we would get from everyone especially Andrea and her gang. Their torment of Emma was bound to become far worse once they saw her with us.

If she even looked at Emma funny though she would have to deal with me. Asher may put up with her but I didn't have to, and I had been waiting for a chance to put that skank in her place. Now that Emma was under our protection, no one was allowed to touch her. I sighed and covered my eyes with my arm to try and force myself to sleep but I just couldn't. With a huff, I pushed myself up in bed and pulled the covers away. I stood and made my way to the door and stomped out of my room. I found myself standing at the door of Emma's room and started having an internal battle about

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whether or not I should go in. I didn't even know why I was there.

I had an urge to be close to her, and it was driving me crazy. I needed sleep and I had a feeling I wouldn't be able to unless I did this. I opened the door slowly and peeked inside to find Leo and Emma cuddled together. Anger bubbled up and I so badly wanted to grab Leo and throw him out, but Emma looked so peaceful so I decided I would tolerate Leo being there for now. I sighed and stepped inside, closing the door behind me and walking toward the bed. There was room on the other side of Emma, so I pulled the blanket away and slid in behind her.

I hesitated for a moment, not sure what to do but at that moment Emma shuffled and turned so that she was facing me. She was still asleep but now she was face to face with me and my heart skipped at how closer we were now. I brushed a piece of her hair back and rested my forehead against hers. It was like her presence was just the thing I needed to calm me, and I fell into a peaceful sleep with my resting on her hip.

It was the best damn sleep I had in ages.

hand gently

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## **Four or Dead by G O A**

### **Chapter 14**

Emma...Present....

The next morning I woke and felt comfortably warm and well-rested. I had never slept so well in my life. I opened my eyes slowly and my breath hitched at the face in front of me. Logan? What was he doing here? And why? I didn't move though, because this was the first time I had ever been this close to him without him saying a disgusting remark. He looked so peaceful and a small smile crept onto my face. He was beautiful and to my surprise, I had the crazy thought that I could stay here all day just watching him. Wait...what? I moved slightly to get away from him but he groaned and wrapped his arm around me tighter pulling me closer to him and he nuzzled his face into my neck. (5)

My heart was pounding like crazy now.

Just then I felt something shift behind me and I glanced over my shoulder a little to see Leo sit up in bed. He let out a small chuckle at the sight of me and Logan. 2

"I need to get a picture of this." He climbed off the bed and grabbed his phone from the side table.

He snapped a few pictures while I glared at him. "What do I do?" I whisper loudly.

Leo laughed again but not loud enough to wake Logan. "Relax? I never thought Logan would be the cuddling type but here we are, and he looks...happy. You don't want to ruin that do you?"

I could tell he was teasing in his tone and little head quark, but I couldn't just stay like this!

3

"It's still early so I'll go down and get breakfast started. Come down when you're ready and bring your Koala with you." He said winking at me.

I called his name in protest but he sauntered off and closed the door behind him. I growled to myself in annoyance but still tried not to move too much. Logan's warm breaths were tickling my neck and it took everything in me not to giggle. On top of that, we were so close that it was a little awkward because I had no idea where to put my hands. My body was so tense against his and I so badly wanted to run from being trapped in his embrace. Not that I didn't like it, but because I didn't want to give him something to brag about at school. I know all the boys seemed different now but I didn't have enough faith in them to think this would be a long-term thing. I wasn't so naive to think that this was going to be anything more than them helping me, but with them acting like this it was hard not to hope that maybe we could be....more.

There was also the matter of the whole school possibly turning against me more if they see me with the guys. I pinched my eyes shut trying not to psych myself out too much.

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Logan shifted again and his lips brushed against my skin and I swallowed hard. What do I do now?

I moved my hand in between us and pushed a little.

“Logan,” I whispered pushing him away a bit more.

He groaned and tried to pull me closer and I was sure he was somewhat awake.

“Logan,” I said with a groan.

“Hmmm?” He hummed in reply.

“You can let me go now,” I whisper to him.

“I don’t want to.” He said pulling me closer and throwing his leg over mine. 1

“Logan,” I said with a warning and continued to push him back.

He placed his hand over mine and tightened his grip on it so I couldn’t pull away.

“Who knew I needed to get you in bed to sleep so well.” He said with a smirk.

Against my better judgment, I smiled. “Oh god, you are shameless.”

He laughed. “I couldn’t resist.”

Silence fell between us and our eyes were locked on each other, but we didn’t move.

“I slept better next to you than I have slept in a long time,” Logan admitted.

His lack of cocky smirk and teasing eyes was enough to tell me he meant what he said.

“Really?” I asked shyly.

He nodded. “I fell asleep the moment I climbed in next to you.”

He sounded so genuine right now that my body relaxed in his hold.

“I slept pretty well too. I usually have nightmares.” I admitted

He moved his hand so it was completely around my waist.

“Yeah me too. I guess we both found a solution.” He said with a big smile.

“Nice try but I am not letting you climb into my bed on the regular mister.” I protested trying to sound tough.

“No?” He asked with his usual mischievous smirk.

I rolled my eyes but then his smile fell and he did the last thing I expected. He closed the space between us and met his lips with mine.

I froze at the unexpected contact, my eyes wide. My heart was beating so fast I was sure he could feel it

but he didn’t pull away. Instead, he kissed me deeper and I found myself resisting less and giving in to the strange pull to kiss him back. The kiss was so soft and my arms moved on their own accord until they were wrapped around his neck.

This was the first time someone had kissed me like this. My first kiss had been taken by a perverted friend

of my father’s. This kiss was nothing like that first kiss and I would happily replace that awful memory

with the memory of this kiss.

“Hey, guys breakfast is ready!” Leo yelled from downstairs.

The sound brings a stop to our kiss and we pull away but stay close as we caught our

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breaths.

"Thanks," Logan whispered to me.

"For what?" I asked.

"For the best kiss, I have ever had." He said with a smile.

I laughed a little and smack his arm. "I'm sure you say that to all the girls."

He shook his head. "Nope never."

He leaned in again and pecked my lips once more.

"Come on, let's go eat." He said pulling the covers back and climbing out of bed and out of our embrace.

I cleared my throat and look away from him as the cloud in my mind because of that kiss started to clear. I closed my eyes and felt my body heat up from embarrassment. I had given him a ton of fuel to use against me now, and I wouldn't be surprised if news of this was all over school by lunch.

4

"Hey..." he said leaning down on the bed to look down at me: "Don't worry if you want this can be our secret."

I open my eyes and meet his in search of any sign of deception but he again looked genuine, so I nod in agreement. It's not that I am ashamed of kissing him but I wasn't ready to hear the whole school talking about it.

"Come on Sunny..." he stopped speaking and guilt washed over his face. "I'm sorry I mean Emma..."

"Emmy," I said and he looked up at me. "My mom used to call me Emmy. It's better than Sunny, don't you.

think?"<sup>3</sup>

He smiled. "Way better! Ok, Emmy, let's feed you!"

I smiled wide and took his hand and let him pull me to my feet. He smiled and entwined our hands.

together and led me out of the room and down the stairs. Leo was standing in the kitchen scooping some eggs on a plate and added some bacon to it before placing it in front of the empty seat close to where I was standing. He smiled up at me and I felt my face flush and I quickly took a seat. His smile made it seem like he knew everything I have been up to with Logan and my face heated up even more.

Soon I heard steps coming from the stairs and a gruff-looking Asher walked in and headed straight for the fridge. He took out a carton of orange juice and drank directly from it turning and slamming the fridge door shut with his foot.

"Dammit, Asher I have told you a thousand times not to drink straight from the carton!"

Leo growled out opening a cabinet and slammed a cup on the table in front of Asher.

Asher rolled his eyes and when Leo turned his back he took another gulp from the

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carton. Jayden walked in then and smacked Asher in the back of the head making him choke. Jayden walks away with a smirk on his face and I held back a laugh as I watch them. I had no idea they were all so...normal.

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## **Four or Dead by G O A**

### **Chapter 15**

Emma...Present...

After breakfast, we quickly dressed for school and filed into Asher and Leo's car. Since the kiss Logan and I shared earlier that morning he was noticeably nicer to me and not subtle about the change in our dynamic. He grabbed my hand and led me to Leo's car so I could ride with them. It took no time to get to school and when we pulled in I immediately felt sick to my stomach.

After the car was turned off Leo turned to me.

"I know today is going to be a little crazy with how things have changed between you and us, but just ignore everything. We won't let you out of our sight, okay?" Leo reached back and squeezes my hand and I nodded.

Logan opened his door behind me and quickly stepped up to my door and opened it for me. I hid a smile at his antics and climbed out with my backpack in hand. He closed the door for me and I stepped up to the curb as the other boys joined us. I stood still for a moment looking at our school and imagined all the bad things that could happen today. My thoughts were interrupted when I felt a hand slip into mine.

I turned my head to see Leo standing beside me and giving me a reassuring smile. I swallowed and we followed Asher and Jayden through the doors. Asher and Jayden's broad shoulders created a kind of a barrier in front of me, so no one seemed to notice me. Once we reached my locker the boys fanned out. around me and gave the other students nearby a clear look at who had been escorted in by The Dark Angels. I kept my head fixed in the direction of my locker even though I could feel all eyes on me.

"Hey, baby! What are you doing over here?" Andrea's voice came from my left and I groaned internally.

Here we go...

"We were just escorting Miss Emma!" Logan responded proudly.

I turn and offered a weak smile. "It's okay I think I can get around fine on my own."

I shot Logan a pointed look but he raised a brow at me like he had no intention of keeping this situation.

quiet.

Andrea laughed. "This is a joke, right? I mean...why would you help out this sewer rat?"

I turned and closed my locker ignore her comment.

"Shut up Andrea." A deep voice said and I turn to see Jayden step in front of me. "She is under our protection now and we will happily demonstrate what that means to anyone, including you."

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“Yeah so step off if you know what’s good for you,” Logan said stepping up and wrapping an arm around

Andrea’s eyes grew comically wide and her mouth dropped open.

“Asher they can not be serious!” She yelled in a whiny voice that made Logan visibly cringe beside me.

I couldn’t help the laugh that escaped at his reaction which snapped Andrea’s attention to me. She stalked toward me and I instinctively took a step back or tried to but Logan kept a tight hold on me.

“Can’t you see they are just messing with you little Rat? This is all a big joke to them, so don’t think for a second that anything has changed.” She said far too close to my face. She was jerked back then.

“I don’t condone hitting a girl but if you do not respect Emma then I will happily change my mind,” Leo said squeezing her arm tight making her whimper.

He let her go and she huffed and turned to Asher with a pout on her lips.

“Baby, do you see how they treat me? Aren’t you going to say something?” She asked in that same annoying voice.

Asher turned his attention from me and to her. “No, I think they covered everything. Also, you might want to call before coming over now that we have a new roommate.” Andrea gapes as his words connect in her mind. “She lives with you now? What the Hell Asher?!”

He sighed and moved toward me to stand next to Jayden and create a wall around me once again.

“Yes she does, and I don’t want you coming around anymore with notice. Got it?” He spat out, patience was clearly running out. 10

I could almost see steam coming out of her ears the way she became so visibly furious. his

“Asher I swear we are over if this goes on! You don’t want to mess things up between us for her do you?” Logan let go of me and walked around Asher to stand in front of her.

“Emma isn’t coming between you, Asher is just smart enough to see when something is not worth his

time. Like you. Move on Andrea, you’re not welcome with The Dark Angels any longer.” Andrea screeched and looked to Asher expecting him to say something but he only shrugged.

“This is a big mistake! This isn’t over Asher! I swear you will be sorry!” She yelled before turning and stomping off with her minions following quickly behind her. (D

I fell back against my locker and groaned. “Why did you guys do that?”

They all turn to me and looked almost confused by my question.

“You are one of us now, and people need to know it,” Logan said matter-of-factly.

I shake my head. “But I’m not one of you, far from it. I asked for help with my dad, but

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this stuff...at school, I don't need protection." [2]

I grabbed my backpack from the floor and walked away not waiting for them to follow.

"Wait, Emma!" I heard Leo call out behind me but I ignored him.

When he caught up to me he grabbed my elbow to slow me down. "Hey come on."

"Come on what Leo? You guys just announced to practically the whole school that I am your property or something, and you don't think that there won't be any repercussions?"

I asked him with a wave of anger in my voice that surprised even me. 4

I didn't wait to hear his answer, instead, I continued walking to my next class, which unfortunately was the same class as the boys. I didn't protest though when they took the seats around me, but I did my best to ignore them.

"Emmy...are you upset with us?" Logan asked with a pouty face.

I lifted my eyes to him and give him an unimpressed look, but I deflate when his fake pout fell and he looked genuinely concerned. Why did he make it so hard to stay mad at him? I groaned and dropped my head onto my desk in defeat. (2)

"Emma people need to know they can't mess with you anymore," Jayden said from the right of me.

I turned my head to look at him but I didn't lift it from my desk. He met my eyes but didn't say anything. more. He lifted an eyebrow in challenge but I conceded too easily. These boys were stubborn and bossy but I didn't know why I was surprised. They were offering their help and I was dumb enough to not give specifics on what I wanted that help to be. So now I was stuck with four bodyguards and every eye on me.

I lifted my head and looked at Logan. "It's fine, just something I will have to get used to I guess. This is weird for us compared to how things used to be"

He nodded in agreement. "Things are different now Emma, but get used to it because we are going to make sure everyone knows who has your back." He threw me a quick wink before we turned away from me.

I shook my head and turned my attention to studying the notes in front of me. It was so weird being in the center of these boys and not being a victim of their specific flavor of bullying. Now they were my allies and I wasn't sure how I felt about the way they pretty much laid claim to me in front of a bunch of people. This could be the biggest mistake of my life, but there was no going back now. Until I got my revenge they were a part of my world, whatever that meant. After the kiss I shared with Logan I could admit I was even more confused by all this than before. The waters of my life were muddy as hell and I was just trying to stay above water. Hopefully, the boys wouldn't leave me to drown, because, after everything in my life, one more betrayal would be one too many. (2)

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