

Chapter 34

Asher....Two weeks later...

“Asher please I can walk to my class alone. I don’t need an escort everywhere I go.”

Emma had been trying to get us to lay off her since she came home from the hospital but there was no way that was happening.

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Our girl may have nine lives but with her luck, she was bound to get into something that she wouldn’t be able to escape from. We were done with being scared half to death anytime Emma went anywhere without us. She was still in a cast and with her officially with us I was sure some jealous slut would try to hurt her when our backs were turned. 3


Andrea was also back and I didn’t trust her further than I could throw her. She had been blowing me up since she returned


and I was close to throwing her in the basement the way she did to Emma if she kept testing my patience. She acted like nothing had happened and there wasn't much we could do to keep her away. We could kill her but my father hadn't planned on doing that just yet. She was easy collateral if needed. So yeah I was watching my girl as much as possible. ⁵


“Babe we go through this every day. We don't want to leave you alone when you are on crutches. I don't trust any of these people to not take advantage of it.” I reminded her. ²

She sighed and I smiled. I admit we had been more protective of our girl since she came back to school but we weren't about to leave her to be targeted in her state. She was on crutches and I wasn't going to allow someone to go after her to get to one of us. There were people, girls mostly, that felt they were better suited to be with us.

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Like our girl was in the way of them having a chance with us. Guys wanted her simply for the fact that they thought she would put out for anyone since she was with all of us. 

We of course put those guys in their place with a convincing warning. A warning that was physical in nature. 

It was juvenile and ridiculous but people always want what they can't have. That alone makes people stupid and desperate. We didn't want to risk Emma's safety again. Logan was the worst out of all of us, as per usual, and didn't feel the least bit ashamed. He loved our girl openly and made sure everyone knew it. He told her he loves her every chance he's gotten since she woke in the hospital after the accident. 

I didn't know if the other guys had also admitted their feelings to her yet but I had the urge to every time I looked at her. She


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was the light chasing away all my demons. She was beautiful inside and out even after everything she endured. I could not understand how she could still be so kindhearted after people had hurt and betrayed her. I was in awe of her and when she let out her sassy side I loved her even more. ²

It had taken time but she had become comfortable enough with us to let all her sides show. Her sass was amusing and adorable which drove her crazy because it only amused us. She was cute in everything she did and I could watch all her adorable quarks all day. Corny I know but damn this girl had us all falling hard. I had no idea what real happiness was until she tumbled into our lives these past weeks. ⁴

When we finally reached her class and she turned her beautiful doe eyes to me and pouted it took all my strength not to tell


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her then and there that I loved her. I wanted our moment to be special though so I simply smiled down at her and pulled her against me. Our girl was a tiny thing but she had a fire in her that made up for it. She was one of the strongest people I have ever met. 

“I know this seems like a lot but I just want you to be safe. Believe me, I have seen you fight with Jayden and I have no doubt you can hold your own now, but not in this condition. So can you humor us just until your back on your feet?” I all but begged her. 


Her lips crept up into her usual sweet smile. “Fine but you owe me.”

Her words made me smile down at her in return. “Anything you want baby it’s yours.”

And I meant every word. I would give her the world if she asked for it. 

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She laughed. "You are going to regret saying that."

I never would because I already knew she would never ask anything of us that we couldn't give her. We had to force her to accept things from us and let us spoil her. She had been raised with the bare minimum and gave up hoping for things long ago. So we made sure to get her everything she could ever need. She deserved everything we could offer her and more. 

"You guys do enough for me already. There isn't anything I want or need." Emma said as I expected. "I have to go. See you at lunch."

I leaned closer to her and stole a kiss before I let her go and she walked into class awkwardly hopping on her crutches. I hated seeing her like this, hurt but putting on a strong face. My eyes lingered on her

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
for a moment longer before I turned to head to my class. A few steps away I saw Leo leaning against a wall.

“You guys have gotten close. You look almost as love-struck as Logan now.” He quipped with a hint of a scowl.

I sighed. Leo had been distant for weeks now and Emma was worried she had done something to upset him. It confused me too since the rest of us had made a point to not shy away from our feelings for Emma after what happened.

“What is up with you?” I asked him firmly, my annoyance lashing out at him.

“Nothing.” He replied sharply.

“You think none of us see how you’ve been avoiding Emma? She sees it too. So what is it?” The hold on my anger was starting to faultier. 

"It's nothing...I just..." Leo's body deflates slightly.

There was something going on with him, and it was up to me to figure out what it was.


"Leo, what happened? When Emma first moved in with us you seemed happy, excited even. But the longer she has been with us the more you've been pulling back. Why?" He needed to get this out and work through it before Emma got really hurt.

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"I don't know! Okay? I don't know. Being with her again... it was like coming up for air but it just reminds me of how bad I hurt her. I don't deserve to be happy after what I did. I let her go, and she was hurt not only by her father but by us. I loved her even though I never told her and she looked at me with hurt and betrayal every day for three years!" He confessed, his voice rough with frustration. 4

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He started to pace and his anger and fear were radiating in clouds around him.

“Leo she has already forgiven you. She loves you even after everything. She doesn't blame you, why can't you see that? Let go Leo. You don't have to forget what's happened but you can try to make it up to her instead of shutting her out. She needs us, she has no one else. Don't make her lose you all over again. Fix this.” I would help my friend but if he hurt Emma again he would have us to deal with and I wouldn't shy away from beating some sense into him. 

Our girl deserved better than to walk on eggshells around him because she had no idea what was going on inside his head. Like I said, anything our girl wanted she could have. She wants Leo, and Leo needed to deliver or bow out. 