

Four or Dead by G O A

Chapter 21

Asher...

Watching Emma walk off with the new kid had Logan in knots. Out of all of us, he could play off most of his emotions but when it came to Emma he couldn't hide anything. He was fuming and we knew nothing we said would calm him down. Emma had a calming effect on him and now she was walking off with some other guy. This made Logan murderous if the look on his face was any indication of the anger inside him.

"Dude, you need to chill, okay? If you go after that guy Emma will be furious." Leo reminded Logan.

Leo wasn't happy about this either but he was a lot calmer than the rest of us. Jayden and I were the silent angry type, so you would never know just how pissed we are until our fist connected to your face. Leo was unpredictable, one minute he could be chill and the next he would choke a guy until they passed out. He

was a little all over the place but the calmer one.

Logan's anger only grew when we watched Emma walk into the cafeteria smiling and that same prick walking beside her. He was smiling down at her like she was heaven's gift to the world. Which she was but

he wasn't allowed to look at her like that!

He looked like that heart-eyed emoji and it was making my blood boil. I was keeping my emotions locked down but it was getting harder with our girl ignoring us and spending time with that pretty boy instead. He had that all-American football player look about him and he kept smiling at her. Who smiled that much? Finally, Emma turned and locked her eyes on us. She lowered her head but turned to the guy and

said a few words before coming over to us.

"Hey," Leo said pulling her in and kissing her on the cheek.

She visibly melted into his touch and sensing it he wrapped his arms around her.

"I'm so sorry." She said into his shirt.

He pulled away and looked down at her. "Why? You didn't do anything wrong."

"I'm sorry I freaked out this morning and ignored you all. I was stuck in my head and I needed some time

to think.” She said looking at the rest of us.

Logan looked sheepish and didn’t move to touch her or say anything. She must have noticed because she stood and walked around the table to him. He turned his body to face her and she reached out to cup his

face. Logan’s eyes fell shut and he leaned forward and wrapped his arms around her waist, hiding his face in her stomach. She cracked a smile and ran her fingers through his hair. Logan let out a sigh and pulled her into his lap holding her tight. He must have been feeling a lot worse than he was showing because at that moment he seemed truly terrified that he had screwed up with Emma for good.

“So the new kid huh?” I glared at Jayden for ruining the calm we just reached but he didn’t even notice.

Jayden barely gave girls a second look finding it a waste of effort, but Emma wasn’t just any girl. She was cracking that tough-guy facade he had going for him and it was letting out a slew of unexpected reactions. He had cuddled her the night before and that was not like him at all. He was falling deep and fast just like

the rest of us, but he seemed testy because of it.

Emma looked over at him and offered him a sweet smile. “Kyle? He is so nice. We are project partners.”

“You guys looked like you hit it off.” Jayden added and again I shot him a look to be careful.

“Yeah, he is pretty great...” I watched her carefully and a smirk found its way onto my face.

She was trying to provoke Jayden and it was working.

Jayden scoffed. “I guess if you are into pretty boy jocks.”

“Well, he is exactly the kind of guy I had always imagined would come along and sweep me off my feet and run away with me.” Logan’s head shot up.

“What? You want to run away with him?” He asked and I shook my head.

She smiled down at Logan. “What if I did? Would you miss me?”

7

She was good. Logan wrapped a hand around her neck and pulled her into a kiss right there in the

cafeteria.

“I wouldn’t miss you,” Logan said pulling away a little. “Because I would chase after you.”

I almost gagged but that seemed to be exactly what our girl wanted to hear because this time she leaned in and kissed him. Now my desire to punch that jock had transferred to me wanting to punch my friend. He had shared more than one kiss with Emma while the rest of us barely spent one moment alone with her. Yeah, petty alpha male stuff I know but still, I wanted my chance to kiss her too if not more. She had come to me once and I had been hoping for more ever since. This girl had my head in jumbles and I just

wanted a break from that.

Instead, I stood and stormed out of the cafeteria. I hadn’t realized really how upset I was until I did that and I was ready to leave completely when a soft hand reached out and slipped into mine.

“Where you off to?” Emma asked walking alongside me with our hands clasped together.

I let out a sigh. “I don’t know. I just needed air.”

She looked up at me for a moment studying my face.

“You were upset about me being with Kyle too right?” She asked in her sweet honey voice.

I nodded. “I am not the jealous type but when I saw that...”

“Why would you be jealous?” She asked me.

I look down at her in disbelief. “You really don’t know?”

She shakes her head. “Asher I am a mess and half the time I’m trying to keep my thoughts out of dark places. If there is something you want me to know, you need to say it. I can’t know what any of you guys are thinking unless you tell me. Logan saying I belonged to you guys had me in a panic. I have only been with you guys for a short time and so much has changed so fast that I am trying to understand it all.”

I searched her eyes and saw real sadness and confusion. She honestly didn’t get that we were all under her spell.

“I have been hiding for so long and more focused on surviving each day that I don’t even consider that someone might care about me. I am used to no one caring, so Asher

I need you and the others to just tell me. What do you want from me? What do you want us to be?" We stopped walking and she looked up at me expectantly.

2

We were now standing at the end of one of the hallways and it was silent and private. I looked down at her

and tried to think of the best way to say everything I was thinking and feeling.

"We want you, Emma. Not for the deal we made, or because you want our help. We want you." I said

hoping she understood.

Her eyes widened. "Why?" She asked.

"I don't know truthfully. I think we were all captured by you that first day, but we knew you were too good

for us. I think that infuriated us and we lashed out. Also, I had to stay in Andrea's good graces and that

meant pushing you away. We saw how much Leo cared for you and we were a bit jealous of your bond, but

he knew he couldn't bring you into our world. Logan enjoyed flirting with you and I think it has always

been because he wanted you. You were like a fragile rose, beautiful and soft but could hurt us the moment

we grabbed on to you. Because we would want you so bad but didn't deserve you." I swallowed in

embarrassment.

She smiled. "As much as you guys drove me crazy I think I knew you guys didn't want to hurt me. I think it

hurt more that you guys watched Andrea and her friends hurt me and did nothing. But I don't want to live in the past anymore. I have seen who you guys really are and you guys are sweet and caring."

I grimaced at her words and she laughed. "You guys are also protective. All of that is new to me and

sometimes it's scary, but it's also nice. I don't care about what happened before now that I know this side

of

you. I want to be with you guys. I feel safe with you and if you really want me then I'm yours.'

I didn't need another word before I leaned down and crashed our lips together. She gasped in surprise but

I just pulled her closer. I needed this, I needed to feel close to her. I wanted to show her and everyone just

how

crazy I was for her. She was right, this had happened fast and hard but she wanted us and I didn't

care how we got here. She was ours just as it should have always been.