

## Four or Dead by G O A

### Chapter 30

Emma...Present...

I decided to sleep with Jayden that night because there was no way I could be away from him after what he told me. It meant so much to me to hear him say those words. Coming from him it was a big deal and I wanted to cuddle him so badly after. He may not be a cuddly kind of guy but he made me swoon and I was going to be all over him from now on. Logan would probably complain that I am showing Jayden some special attention for the next few days but I can't help it.

Hearing someone say they love me had my heart doing some crazy things. Jayden didn't seem to mind the idea of me sleeping with him and he even curled closer to me like it was so natural for me to be there.

"You're going to get all clingy now aren't you?" I asked him teasingly.

"I may but if you tell me to leave you alone I will," He said with a promise.

I turned to look up at him and smiled. "I would never tell you to leave me alone. I know this is new to you though so don't push to please me. I understand if there are things you aren't comfortable with."

He took a moment to consider my word as I went back to resting my head on his chest. "Truthfully it is a little strange to cuddle in general or be affectionate at all. I always felt too cold-hearted to even enjoy those things anymore. But with you...it feels right."

My lips turned up into a huge smile at his sweet words and I held him tighter. "You are actually really good at this. Maybe better than Logan."

5

He huffed out an amused laugh. "I find that hard to believe. He has that whole perfect boyfriend thing going on."

I let my hands trail along his broad chest absentmindedly. "He isn't perfect, no one is," Jayden grumbled in disagreement but I ignored it. "He gets crazy jealous but not in a bad way. I just reassure him and he turns back into his cute cuddly self again."

He let his hands run down my side and stay fixed on my hip. "I can't promise I will be anything like that but I will try my best to make you happy." 3

I hated that he didn't think he was enough for me and I was determined to make sure he knew he was. I

looked up at him again and his face turned to me as well. My hand left his chest and brushed along his jaw. "I don't want you to be anything but you. I love everything about you, darkness and all. I love you." 2

He tensed under my touch for just a moment before he lowered his head and closed the space between us

and met my lips with his. This kiss was soft and slow as he poured all his gratitude and hope into me. It was so intimate and gentle that it could have easily progressed to more but he moved away before that could happen. I knew the boys wanted me to have time to be ready to take those next steps and it made

me love them more.

We stayed wrapped in each other for a few more extra minutes and I must have drifted off because a loud banging woke me and had me shooting up in the bed. My eyes scanned the room on instinct but when I turned I found Jayden sleeping peacefully beside me. The panic I felt began to subside until another bang

rang out.

"What is that?" Jayden asked, his voice deep and gravely from sleep.

"I don't know. I think someone is banging on the door." He pulled back the covers and I followed.

Jayden quickly made his way to his bedroom door and out as more banging rang out through the first floor. When he finally reached the door everything happened so fast. I don't even know how it happened but the sound of a gun had my ears ringing. I watched as Jayden fell to the ground, blood spraying all over. I screamed and tried to get to him but something had a hold on me.

My body was pulled away and toward the door as I struggled to reach Jayden. My ears were still ringing as I was roughly dragged out of the house and I caught a glimpse of Jayden trying to stand and reach for me. He was hurt though and it was making him stumble as he slipped on the blood coating the floor. I was pushed toward a car running and wait nearby and shoved into the driver's seat. I scrambled to get out until I felt the cold touch of metal against my head. I looked up and was met with the burning eyes of my father.

"Get in or I shoot you right here, right now." He said in a calm voice that had chills running across my

skin.

I nodded with a shaky breath and climbed in properly. He slammed the door shut and I heard shouting coming from behind the car. In the rearview mirror, I could see Logan running toward the car. My father held his gun out and shot at Logan and another scream escaped my lips. My father kept shooting until he jumped into the passenger seat and turned his gun to me.

“Drive now!” He shouted.

I didn’t argue. I needed to get him away from my guys.

“Where do I go? I ask just above a trembling whisper.

“Head toward the highway.” He growled out with his gun still pointing at me.

“You are going to regret what you’ve done to me! You will pay for this I swear!” He shouted at me as I drove, shaking the gun around dramatically.

I could smell the alcohol on him and I knew that he could easily kill me if I said or moved in any wrong

way.

“Dad please...” I knew begging wouldn’t save me but I had to try.

“Shut

up

and take a left!” He yelled at me pushing the gun into my temple yet again.

He barked out directions and I followed them to the letter and soon we were driving down the nearest highway. My mind was panicking but the longer I drove Jayden’s voice begin to flicker in my mind.

“Protecting yourself is not just about fighting until your opponent is too hurt to fight back. It’s about being smart. If someone has a hold on you, you don’t thrash around and tire yourself out. You hit key points to loosen their hold on you enough to getaway. So when someone is threatening you, calm your mind and look for a way out.” Jayden’s words echoed in my mind like he was sitting right beside me.

He was right. I was panicking because of the gun aimed at my head, but I realized that my dad couldn’t kill me. If he did he would have nothing to bargain with. He was trying to scare me enough that I wouldn’t fight back. With this in mind, I knew I needed to find a way to get out of this car.

My eyes scanned the area around us but there wasn't much but trees and more trees. There weren't many

options with us being on a highway going 70 miles per hour. Then I realized that as much as I wanted to fight, I could end everything by simply swerving off the road. I could kill us both and it would be done. There would be no one hunting me and no one who would be able to possess me. I would be free. These few weeks had given me hope, but I needed to sacrifice myself to save the people I cared about. 3

My father would never stop coming for me, and he would happily hurt or kill anyone in his way.

I glanced at my father for a second and really took in what state he was in. One of his eyes was swollen. from a clear beating and he seemed panicked and on edge. The arm he was using to hold the gun on me was less ridged now, and I knew that was the exact opening I needed. I slowed my breathing and screamed yanking on the steering wheel hard enough to send us flying off the road. The car jumped from the force knocking the gun from my father's hand as the car slammed headfirst into the grass before bouncing back. He cursed and I pressed harder on the gas as we moved closer and closer to the trees.

"Don't be stupid Emma! You'll kill us!" My father screamed trying to grab for the wheel.

2

He was too late and the impact from hitting the tree slammed darkness all around me.