

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 learned 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 gave 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 turned 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.

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 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 ha

d 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