

Four or Dead by G O A

Chapter 32

Jayden...Present...

Emma's father had shot me but he had no idea that it would take more than that to kill me especially when Emma needed me. Thankfully her father, in his hurry to get Emma, had been a lousy shot. The bullet grazed me putting on quite the show of blood which was a mess, but hardly anything I couldn't handle. Logan ran back inside as Asher checked out my wound.

"Where is she?" I growled out when he walked toward us.

"He pushed her into a car and they took off in the direction of the highway," Logan replied his voice breathy I guessed from chasing after them.

"Do we still have a tracker on his car?" Asher glanced at Leland our tech boy nodded.

"We can track them but I can't guarantee that they haven't already reached wherever it is he was taking her. We could be too late for what he has planned." Leo admitted with a hard swallow of obvious fear.

"Let's hope that isn't the case. Now let's go get our girl." I said standing and grabbing a bandage for my

arm.

No one said a thing as we all filed into Asher's car and Logan pulled up the tracking app on his phone.

"This can't be right." He said suddenly.

"What?" Asher asked impatiently through a clenched jaw.

"It says his car isn't on the main highway. It looks like..." Leo raised his head to meet our eyes. "The

signal is coming from the state park along the highway a mile away from exit 73."

"What? What does that mean?" Asher was losing his cool and that was never a good thing. "Leo what does

that mean!"

"I don't know! It's a dot on a map I don't know what that could mean! They could have pulled over or...or

they could have..." Leo was choking on his words as the possibilities ran through his mind.

"Or they could have crashed," Asher said finishing Leo's thought. "Dammit!"

Asher's anger lashed out as he slammed his hand on the steering wheel and his foot on the gas.

We flew down the highway at an illegal speed scanning the area off the road for any sign of Emma. As we

rounded a bend something caught my eye. The tail light of a car was blinking while the rest of the car

seemed to be down an embankment and too hidden to see.

"There! Pullover!" I yelled to Asher and he immediately slammed on the brake and pulled to the side causing all of us to slump forward from the sudden stop.

I jumped out of the car before the car had fully slowed and didn't stop until I was standing a few feet from

the car.

"Emma!!!" My voice boomed through the trees and we all fell silent for the breakfast second in hope of hearing her.

"Jayden!" My girl's voice hit me harder than a bullet and I ran down the small hill until I stood by the

drivers side of the car.

My eyes met Emma's wide panicked ones and for a moment I let out a breath of relief. She was alive if not a little banged up. She had clearly hit her head as was evident by the small cut near her hairline and the small amount of blood that fell from the wound.

"Emma!!!" I pulled on the door as hard as I could but it creaked and strained against my hold. "Emma are you ok ?"

She whimpered and tried to move but it was clear her legs were pinned. "I'm stuck!"

"Ok! Ok baby hang on!" Logan yelled to her from the other side of the car.

I leaned down a little to glance toward Emma's father and assess the risks he may cause. He was knocked out with a huge gash on his head and more blood was around him from wounds I couldn't see. Logan used his elbow to shatter the glass and quickly checked the guy's pulse.

"He's still alive." He called out before trying the passenger door. 7

It opened with a loud creak and Logan leaned across Emma's father to try and unbuckle him and get him out of the way.

"It won't budge!" Logan yelled as he pulled harder and still it did not budge.

The

guy

let out a groan and started to wake and the thought of him still being alive caused my anger to flood every part of me until I was seeing pure red. He should be dead. He should have died and set Emma free.

"Jayden, it's ok. I'm ok." Emma started to say as my eyes fixed on the man who hurt my girl.

How did trash like him escape death over and over? He needed to die and that was the only thought running through my head at that moment. Emma must have been able to see my intentions because she kept calling out for me but I didn't listen. The world around me was silent except for the pounding of my heated blood pumping to my dark heart. I walked over to the passenger's side of the car and bent over so that I was face to face with the beast himself.

"You threatened to kill my girl. You were going to sell her off like she was nothing to you! You beat her and hurt her everyday of her life! You're a monster of the worst kind and you don't deserve to live." My anger was pounding at the door of my restraint.

The guy laughed. Laughed.

"You are no better than me. I know exactly who you guys are. Jayden Lee, orphan, murderer, and thug. Who are you to say I am a monster when you and are the same, Huh?" He spit out along with a good

amount of blood.

A laugh escaped me, one deep and dark.

“You are scum, the lowest kind of man. Men who hit women are weak, and you will never lay a hand on Emma again. Never.” My eyes glanced around for something, anything I could use to finish this guy.

My eyes landed on a large piece of glass and I removed the shirt I was wearing and wrapped it around my hand before grabbing the glass shard.

“Jayden...bro...what are you doing?” Asher asked as my hand tighten around the glass.

“Nec sometimes in car accidents fiving glass can hit people in all the wrong places I held the glass to his chest. “Like here at here

I moved the shard of glass to his throat and I let it slide along the front of his neck without breaking the skin, and he swallowed hard

“An accident like this can cause severe injuries that bleed so much that you die. And you need to die.” A smirk appeared on my face as I stopped the glass right by his carotid artery.

“Jayden! Don’t! The police could be here any second, just let him go.” Emma cried out to me.

I knew why she tried to stop me. She didn’t want me to become a murderer but I already was, what was one more name on my list? So without hesitation, I pulled the glass back and sliced through his neck causing blood to spray everywhere. Emma screamed and my eyes shot up to hers as she looked at me in horror. Her face was splattered with her father’s blood and it was only then that my mind cleared and the taste for blood turned to ash in my mouth. I had just killed Emma’s father right in front of her.

I didn’t feel guilt for killing the man who had hurt her for so long. I felt guilty that she saw the dark being I kept hidden from her. The sound of sirens blaring had me taking a step back and looking to the others. I was still holding the bloody piece of glass and my shirt was covered in blood as well.

“Go! You can’t stay!” Emma yelled to us.

“No! Baby we can’t leave you here,” Logan said pulling on her door like I had trying to get her out.

“Jayden has blood all over him. I’m trapped and only the firefighters can get me out. Go! Meet me at the hospital!” We all looked at each other and we knew she was right.

We couldn’t stay. Leo stood in front of me but my mind was a mess and I barely registered his voice yelling at me. The look on Emma’s face was playing over and over in my mind.

“Jay we have to go! Now!” Leo yelled as he pulled on my arm.

I looked to Emma one last time and saw fear. I couldn't tell if she was afraid of me or that I could be caught. That was enough to snap me out of my thoughts and I gave her one last look before taking off after the others. Asher immediately started the car and pulled away in time for the first responders to not

see us. 4

Chapter 33

Emma...The next day...

The annoying beeping sound in my ear was driving me crazy but it was thankfully waking me from the memories tormenting me through my dreams. My head was pounding and my whole body ached as I tried to shift and wake myself up completely.

“Uh please make that thing stop!” I growled, my raspy voice taking me by surprise.

“Sorry babe it's letting us know your heart is still beating.” I scoffed out a laugh and turned in the direction of the voice to see a blurry version of Logan.

A few blinks and his face became clear. He was stunning and I smiled wide seeing that face of his. You know when you love someone when you just melt at the mere sight of them.

“Hey,” I say squeezing his hand.

His smile just about killed me then and there. These boys don't take it easy on my heart. There is only one of me, how much do they think I can take? It just isn't fair, and I loved every bit of it.

“I'm glad you're awake. I hate seeing you here again.” His face turned sad but I just squeezed his hand a little tighter.

“I'm okay Logan. Don't worry. Although my leg is killing me.” I glanced down at my leg to see a cast all the way past my knee. “Oh my gosh.”

“You fractured your leg in the accident,” Leo says and I turn to see him sitting on the other side of my bed,

a good distance away.

He had become more distant and the distance couldn't be any more clear.

“Wow. That is a huge cast. How long will I needed to wear it?” I ask.

“For a few weeks baby but don’t worry we will take good care of you,” Logan says kissing me on the forehead.

God, I loved him. I hadn’t told him yet but I was sure now. I felt such a strong pull to him and I always felt

cared for a safe, and my heart fluttered any time I was near him. If that wasn’t love I guess I would never

know.

I turned my head up to look at him and he smiled down at me before leaning down to place a soft kiss on

my lips. I melted against his touch instantly and I couldn’t help the hum of contentment that escaped me. He smiled against my lips before pulling away just slightly.

“I love you.” He whispered through the inch of space between us and I smiled wide.

There was no way I wasn’t saying it back because man I really did love him.

“I love you too.” I had never seen him so happy.

His face beamed as soon as the words left my mouth and he grabbed my face in his hands and kissed me harder. We had completely forgotten that we weren’t alone until Leo let out an awkward laugh.

“I would tell you guys to get a room but I guess you already have one and we are just intruding.” Logan

moved away from me and I looked away, my face heating in embarrassment.

When I lifted my head again my eyes met Jayden’s I could see the battle going on inside him. He was panicking and I knew exactly why.

“Actually can I get a minute alone...with Jayden?” I asked watching his eyes flash with fear.

“Sure. We’ll be right outside.” Asher said walking over to me and placing a gentle kiss on my forehead.

Logan did the same and the three of them filed out leaving me and Jayden alone. The room went

completely silent and I realized I wasn't sure how to start this conversation.

Jayden didn't move from his spot at the end of my bed and I just watched him for a moment. I had never seen him look so anxious and I couldn't let him stew any longer.

"Come here," I said reaching my hand out to him.

He hesitated for a second but stepped around the bed and headed toward me.

"I know what you're thinking right now. Talk to me." I already knew I could never hate him for what he did, but it was clear he needed to talk about it.

I wanted him to be open with me about everything so I was giving him that chance.

"Come sit," I tell him, moving slightly to make room for him to sit next to me.

He was still hesitating but I raised a brow and gave him a stern look. He let out a small laugh and did as I

asked.

"Jay- I started to say but he cut me off.

"I messed up Emma. I let my anger get the best of me." He said his voice punishing.

"Are you ok?" I asked. "I thought he shot you. How are you not in the bed next door?"

He turned to me and looked truly confused. "It was a surface wound, thanks to your dad being a lousy shot. It hurt like hell and bled a lot but I'm fine. Why are you worried about that with everything going

on?"

He really didn't know? Boys could be stupid sometimes.

"Because I was scared. I don't want to lose you." I admit to him.@

"How can you say that after what I did?" He growled standing and putting distance between us.

I sighed again because these boys really thought I was somehow too good for them. The thing they kept forgetting was that I had been around monsters my whole life. I even lived with one, and they were nowhere near what I would consider a monster. They were my guardian angels and Jayden had given me freedom. How could I ever hate him for that??

“Jayden you saved me. I was scared not of you, but what could happen to you if someone found out what you had done. You could be locked away because of what you did for me. I’m scared because what if the police show figured out what really happened? I can’t lose you guys now...you’re all I have left.” I knew my heart would break if I lost even one of these guys. 3

He turned to me and I could see how torn he felt. They had warned me how dark their blood ran but I could never be afraid of them. I wasn’t blind, I saw every piece of them. They were good and had to make

hard decisions. They all lost a lot and were dragged into a life that gave them a family.

“I would never let anyone take you from me. Never.” He said and when he stepped closer to me I felt relief.

I would be heartbroken if he was so torn up about this that he would shut me out for good. He hesitated for a moment more before moving toward me and claimed my lips in desperation.

“You are mine forever. Do you understand? I could never let you go. I need you.” I smiled up at him and nodded.

“You have me.” And his lips met mine again.

I loved him...and three other guys. It was crazy I knew that but I didn’t care. Before now I had no one and suddenly I had four guys who cared for me enough to kill. It was twisted and dark but it was us. 3

Jayden and I sat quietly for a few more minutes before the other boys joined us again. Our conversation fell silent when the door to my room opened and a doctor that wasn’t mine walked in.

“Emma Grace?”

“Yes.”

“Hello. I was the doctor who treated your father when he arrived. I’m sorry to tell you this but he didn’t

make it.” The doctor said offering me a sympathetic look.

“T-thank you,” I said, my voice trembling.

My father was really dead, and the man who killed him was standing right beside me this very minute. Of course, there was no way anyone would find out because if they did I would be considered an accomplice. for even knowing what happened and not

reporting it. I was barely eighteen and could be looking at prison time if the truth ever got out.

Not long ago I was trying to get through my senior year and find a way out of this town for good, but now I have no idea what I'll do. All I know is that I was left with four boys and no idea what will happen next. I would be lucky to make it another day without my life completely falling apart.

"You're with us now. Now and forever." Jayden's hot breathy voice said against my ear sending a shiver down my spine.

"I am," I replied looking at each of my guys.

We were five broken pieces pulled together in the darkness and bound together by fate. I believe that without a doubt that we were meant to find each other especially after the weeks that followed. I hadn't realized just how much I needed them until everything from my past came for me. It's exactly what people say....you can never escape your past....and mine was coming with a vengeance. Our story was far from

over....