

Four or Dead by GOA

Chapter 44

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Jayden...Present..

The ride home from Devaro's was silent and tense. The others were furious that Emma had made a deal with him. She didn't know the full extent of how dangerous these men were. Yet I watched the whole interaction very carefully and noticed something unusual.

We had noticed that Devaro would bring up Emma often and we thought it was to get under Asher's skin. He had only met her once but he seemed almost obsessed about meeting her again. Then when we arrived he was looking at her in awe. I bristle at the image of him smiling and watching her with what looked like admiration.

He seemed to be enamored by her as much as we are and exactly in the same way. It seemed like that meeting they had was enough to make Devaro fall for our girl. I don't think the others noticed it but once Asher realizes his dad has a thing for Emma, he is going to be pissed. I am not happy about it but I can't say I blame him. Emma just had a way of drawing people in which explains how some of the worst men in our crew looked almost kind in her presence. .')

It's strange but it was just like Emma to make everyone in the room fall for her. Most of the people at our school have been slowly realizing it now that she has become more confident and open. She no longer hides and walks around trying to be invisible and people are taking notice. We have caught more than a few guys talking to her and her sweetly Chapter 44

enduring it. She doesn't see what I see, how those boys are falling under her spell. She is like a siren drawing every man to their knees and we get to call her ours. 2)

I am not naive though and I know if we aren't careful it would be easy for us to lose her. If we messed up there would be a line of guys willing to take our place.

We reach home and Asher storms ahead of everyone and tree the door open. When we join him in the living room he is pacing and grumbling to himself. The rest of us take a seat in random areas of the room and

wait for him to speak. ()

"Asher..." Emma starts to say but he throws her a glare of pure anger. "Don't. I...I can't deal with this." He says cursing under his breath.

I watch Emma carefully as I always do and she is clearly starting to get annoying with Asher's tantrum. When she finally reaches her limit she stands and walks over to him and pushes his shoulder hard. We all look at her in shock. She has never been physical in that way but she was done being silent apparently.

"I am not asking you to deal with anything Asher. It's done. am doing this and I don't need your permission to do it. You guys took me in and I will always be grateful for that. But in the effort to protect me you have also made me feel like a prisoner." She says firmly.)

I glance at Leo and Logan and they are watching wide-eyed at Emma. Chapter 44

She is clearly done being seen as the girl who needs rescuing. We had been too busy thinking about ourselves and protecting her that we hadn't noticed the changes in her.

"This is hardly a prison!" Asher says gesturing around him. Emma's eyes narrow on him and he visibly bristles under her gaze.

"To you it isn't. I go to school and I come here. That's all. We barely spend any time anywhere else because you guys are always wanting to keep me safe. But you never say what I need protecting from! I know what your crew does. | am not naive. So I have no idea why you guys think hiding it from me makes any difference." She says, her voice growing angrier.

"We want to keep you out of that life and look what's happened now! You walked right into it and sold your soul to a monster!" Asher yells.

Emma is fuming now and I admit it looks kind of hot on her. .' |

"You guys kept this side of you a secret from me. You hid a side of yourselves from me and you don't realize how much that hurt me. This life is a part of who you are and you hid that from me. But this isn't about you! This is about me finding a way to be a part of your world." She explains and I soften a little at her words.

She is right. We were only showing her the good sides of us but that isn't who we really are, not completely. We are monsters and devils, which was why we called ourselves the Dark Angels. There is no real Chapter 44

light in our world, at least until Emma came. We wanted to keep her world light as much as possible, but it's clear that wasn't what she wanted.

"We were going to get out! We were planning to leave this place and everything involving the crew and gang behind us. Now we can't do that because we won't leave without you." Asher throws at her.

Her eyes widen and she grows very still. "You were getting out? Why didn't you say anything to me?" 7)

Asher swallows and grows quiet in obvious guilt. I feel it too. If we had just told her our plans maybe this would have never happened.

"We were making plans but honestly we didn't know if we would be able to get out just yet. We had been putting money away, enough to live on for a while and get us someplace far. When you moved in we decided to take you with us but we didn't have anything ready for you. We needed to get a fake ID and passport ready for you, but we hadn't had a chance to yet." Logan says.

Emma looks to him and then to each of us, her chest rising and falling as her anger starts to grow.

"That doesn't mean you couldn't have told me. This is exactly what I mean! You hide so much from me and then expect me to what...trust you? Trust is earned, and hiding things from me only makes me doubt you." She says, her words tight. Chapter 44

"We wanted to..." Logan starts to say but she cuts him off.

"To protect me. Yeah and that's the problem. I don't need protection from you or anyone. I will make my way on my own. At least Devaro is willing to give me the chance to learn how to be more than a thing to be hidden away." She spits out, her words like knives.)

"He is willing to throw you into a world that will get you killed if you are found out!" Asher yells.

"At least I would have lived for a purpose. This is my choice, not yours! So get out of my way." She doesn't wait for us to answer before walking away and disappearing up the stairs.

We watch her go and the silence that follows is thick with regret and fear. There is a chance we have just pushed her away for good. The reality was, she was right.)