

Chapter 15-Spiraling

(Millie)

I dragged my feet behind me, my hands full of shopping bags as we made our way across the mall for what had to be the fifth time I swear..

"Do I really need to get everything today?" I grumbled..feeling like this was a little much..I mean, I have two months or so to prepare.

"I'm telling you Mil, all the good stuff will be gone by next week." My brother said before smiling at me widely.

"Yeah because we just bought it all.." I grumbled.

Suddenly I felt my hand lighten as Adrian stepped to my side, surprising me.

"Let me take them." He said quickly, not even looking me in the eyes as I nodded once, handing them over.

Yeah..maybe that's the other reason why I have been having such a sucky time..

Mom had to bail on us halfway through because she forgot Dylan had a birthday party he was

going to today. So Ronan offered to take me to get the rest of the stuff..which would've been great if Adrian wasn't here..not in a bad way, just..I don't know..things have been weird since last night.

For starters..he won't even look me in the eye for some reason..and then my brother ran into some girl that went to high school with them and that was lame..now I just want to go back home and crawl into my bed.

Oh, not to mention I had my cousin's phone burning a damn hole in my pocket..my Uncle already texted her once, asking if she got to the city okay..I had a tiny breakdown and almost had a damn panic attack in the girls bathroom from that one.

The guilt was killing me..maybe I could just come clean and ask my uncle not to freak out..

"You hungry Mil?" My brother asked, making me nod hastily..I couldn't help but sniff the air..the food court coming closer as I felt my stomach growl in response.

"Want Chinese?" Ro suggested before glancing between Adrian and me..I was down for anything..

One thing we McNeal's can do is eat..especially Ro..I swear he could eat three pizzas all on his

own. He even puts Dad to shame..

"Why don't you go find us a table Mil. You want the usual?" He asked as I nodded and went to look for an open table.

"Don't forget the eggrolls!" I shouted over my shoulder, prompting my brother to give me a thumbs up in response.

I headed towards the seating area, my eyes scanning the full tables as I finally spotted a clear one. I quickly made my way over before plopping down in the seat.

That's when Adrian placed all the shopping bags beside my chair before sitting down across from me.

I hadn't even realized he was following me over.

We sat there in silence, my eyes glancing toward him every few seconds as I tried to think of what to even say..

Was it always this hard to talk to him?

"How's your hand doing?" He suddenly blurted, surprising me as I looked into those cool blue eyes for the first time today..yep, still breathtaking.

"Kind of sore still." I confessed while lifting my

arm and placing my hand on the table.

"Did you ice it like I told you to?" He asked while raising one of his dark brows.

"Well..um..I forgot." I squeaked, hearing Adrian sigh before reaching forward and grabbing my hand.

My body jolted in response..that one touch woke up every nerve in my body as I tried not to show it..

"It would've helped with the swelling and pain..you might've sprained it.." He muttered while examining my hand carefully.

"How do you know so much about first aid?" I asked curiously, wondering if he was just naturally good at everything he did. Adrian was top of his class and one of the best players on the basketball team. Maybe he knew all of this from playing the game and getting hurt over the years.

"I learned when I was younger..I seemed to get hurt a lot." He stated, the tone of his voice turning serious as he continued to study my hand closely.

"Wait..the great Adrian Dawson used to be a klutz? So hard to believe.." I teased, making a crooked smile pull at his full lips.

Wow..I hadn't seen that smile yet..that has to be

my new favorite.

"The great Adrian Dawson huh? I thought you said I was annoying." He smirked, making my eyes widen as I felt my cheeks burn red.

I was hoping he had forgotten about that..

"Well..I..um.." I began, watching in surprise as Adrian leaned forward, his hand still holding mine gently.

"So which is it, Millie? Am I great, or am I annoying?" He asked in a deep tone, making me swallow hard as I felt my stomach flip at least a good hundred times.

Suddenly Adrian's eyes darted behind me, his back straightening as he quickly let go of my hand.

"Here you guys go..you get two egg rolls Mil..the rest are mine, got it?" My brother stated before plopping down in the seat beside me and putting two trays filled with food down.

"Yeah..sure.." I mumbled, feeling flustered now as I quickly lost my appetite.

We sat and ate while Ronan and Adrian pretty much talked about basketball and cars the entire time..seriously..that's all they talked about until we were almost done eating.

Then Ronan said something that I was totally not expecting..

"Oh dude, did you talk to Penny this morning before she left the house?" My brother asked while stealing one of my eggrolls.

I usually would've fought back..but the moment Ronan said Penny's name, it made me stiffen immediately.

Why would Adrian talk to Penny?

I peered up at Adrian discreetly, my heart hammering in my chest as the anticipation of what he might say was killing me.

"No, I didn't catch her." He responded coolly, his ocean-blue orbs gliding toward me as I quickly looked away.

"Dude..seriously, when are you going to man up and do this..we all know you have had a thing for her since we were kids. Right Mil?" My brother asked, bringing me into this..all I could manage to do was nod..

"So just go for it..I already said it was cool." Ronan declared..and I swear time slowed and the seconds it took for him to respond seemed like an eternity.

"Okay, I will reach out to her soon." Adrian stated, causing my heart to drop as I tried not to react..

He didn't deny his feelings for her..

I stared down at my hands, willing myself not to cry as I felt so freaking pathetic at this moment.

Of course Adrian would eventually pursue Penny..he isn't mine..he was never mine..so why does it hurt this much?

I'm pretty sure Penny has no interest in him either..but the mere fact that Adrian just pretty much admitted he liked her..that felt worse than I thought it would.

I sat there in silence, letting the guys finish up as I felt way more hurt than I should be.

"Hey, you okay Mil?" My brother asked, causing me to blink my eyes rapidly before mustering the best smile I could.

"Yeah..just tired." I managed to choke out..trying so hard to mask this inner turmoil as I wished it wasn't like this.

I don't know what's wrong with me..why am I so obsessed with this guy that clearly will never like me back? Besides..it's not like it could ever happen..Ronan and Adrian are best friends and

there is no way in hell Ro would ever let that happen..so maybe this is for the best..

Maybe this will be what finally helps me get over the guy.

We went back to the car and I quickly slid into the backseat before sighing and pulling out Penny's phone discreetly.

I had to make sure Uncle Jack didn't text or something.

But what I wasn't prepared to see was a text from Adrian..

I couldn't help but scoff..my eyes narrowing as I glared at the back of his head with annoyance..

He just couldn't wait to text her could he..jeez..

I bit my lip anxiously..my heart started to race as I quickly opened it..

From Adrian Dawson: Hey, how are you doing?

He sent her, making my stomach twist..it was so simple, and yet I couldn't help but feel the jealousy pouring out of me.

Adrian has never texted me..not even once..well, maybe once, asking where my brother was or something lame..but not like this.

I lifted my thumb, hovering over the delete button as I debated on erasing it forever..

If Penny didn't see it..then she wouldn't know..not like she cares though right? She said more than a million times that he wasn't her type..and plus, Penny has a Rockstar boyfriend now..that's way better than Adrian's lame ass..

Okay..his ass isn't lame..but I am mad at him right now so I will just pretend it is.

Then I started to think about this..what if I ended up deleting it..would Adrian think it's suspicious that she doesn't respond? Would he try calling her next and tell Ronan about it..and if he tries to call her would he realize she isn't answering too? Then Ronan would go to Uncle Jack and Uncle Jack would go all Liam Neeson on her and track the phone straight to me! Right?! Oh god..I'm spiraling..bad..

Maybe I should just respond..I can turn him down nicely and then it will be done..

"Mil, are you going to get out or what? We're home."