

Football 198

Chapter 198 TOBY (5)

Rakim's heart pounded in his chest, each beat echoing loudly in the cramped space of the locker. He could feel the cold metal pressing against his back, the confines of the locker amplifying every sound. Across from him, Lexi's wide eyes conveyed her fears, her breaths shallow and rapid.

The moment he realised that it was her that had followed him things became much more serious for him. Not that a crazy person shooting up the school wasn't serious enough just the thought of maybe losing his best friend wasn't something he wanted to consider. After Liam moved back to Scotland she was his only friend who really remained close with him in their class.

Emma and her friends don't count since they practically live at each other's houses. The blonde-turned-brunette would talk to him whenever he was back in class forcing him to be present. The fact she transitioned from volleyball to basketball due to her natural talents helped. With how much dedication she gave the sport she found it easier to relate to him and thus kept their friendship close.

"Stay quiet," he mouthed, barely making a sound, knowing that even the smallest noise could give them away. Lexi nodded, her face pale and streaked with tears but the fear prevented her from crying out loud.

"Just focus on me and forget everything else," He whispered into her ear prompting the girl to regain some of her calm. Rakim knew there were no right words to tell someone experiencing this for the first time and his best bet was to keep her focused on him.

This worked for a little while until what could only be described as heat-reaching screams were heard coming from the hallway. With how high his senses were at the moment he could perfectly hear what was going on. The crunching of what he could only assume was bones and the girl screaming for help only to stop right after.

Rakim's heart raced as he listened to the horrifying sounds from the hallway. Each scream and sickening crunch sent waves of nausea through him, but he forced himself to stay focused. He couldn't afford to lose his composure, not with Lexi depending on him.

"Just focus on how pretty my green eyes are," he whispered again, his voice barely more than a breath after noticing her trembling. She must have also heard the sound from the hallway and put two and two together what the sounds are. Lexi's eyes locked onto his, her trembling subsiding slightly as she drew strength from his calm demeanour.

"Are you really gonna flirt with me now?" she whispered back after regaining some of her cool though she didn't avert her eyes.

"I'm not lying though girls have compared them to crystal," He retorted with a slight smile causing the girl pressed against him to chuckle lightly. The moment lasted for a while until sounds of violence grew closer, Toby's maniacal laughter punctuating the chaos. This time however Lexi kept her cool, leaning closer toward Rakim for strength.

A few moments later they heard his footsteps kick up water as he walked into the room. Hearing the wet floor do its job of making his footsteps be heard made Rakim feel relieved. Being able to gauge where he was made him feel at ease despite not planning on charging him. Mainly due to the fact he doesn't want to risk Lexi becoming collateral and the idea of getting shot doesn't sound too appealing either.

They could feel the vibrations of Toby's heavy footsteps through the metal of the locker, each thud bringing the madman closer. The tension was palpable, each second stretching into an eternity. He felt Lexi's breath against his skin, quick and shallow, as she pressed closer to him, seeking comfort in his presence.

Suddenly, the sound of a locker being kicked open reverberated through the room. Toby's voice, dripping with mock sweetness, echoed in the confined space. "Anyone there? If you come out now, I promise not to hurt you." Rakim and Lexi held their breath, their eyes locked on each other. Rakim tried to convey reassurance, but her fear was hard to reassure with the building tension.

"Since nobody wants to step forward Let's play a little game, a crowd favourite really, don't know why I didn't think of it before," Toby's voice echoed through the changing room, dripping with malicious glee. His words caused Lexi's fear to intensify and if she wasn't pressed against Rakim she would have collapsed.

Rakim was also having a hard time staying calm trying his best to focus on her racing heartbeat. That's when that bastard started singing a children's rhyme trying to mess with their nerves. It felt like he picked this out of a serial killer handbook and decided to use it.

"Eenie... -meenie... -miney... -mo. -Catch... -the tiger... -by... -his toe..... -If... -he hollers... -let him go..." Toby chanted, his voice eerie and childlike, creating a jarring contrast to the terror of the situation. Rakim could feel Lexi's body trembling against his, her fear palpable.

His mind raced, desperate to find a way to protect Lexi and himself. The sound of Toby's footsteps grew closer, each step deliberate and heavy. The chanting stopped, replaced by a chilling silence.

"-My mother... -told me... -to pick.... -the very best one... -and you... -are.... -it." Toby's voice rang out, punctuated by the explosive sound of gunfire. Bullets ripped through the lockers, sending metal shards and splinters flying. Rakim felt a searing pain as one of the bullets tore through the right side of his chest.

The bullet pierced through hitting the back of the locker barely missing her face. The impact knocked him closer to Lexi forcing him to use a hand to brace himself. The pain and shock of the impact radiated outward, a wave of fiery agony that seemed to consume his entire being. Each breath he took was a struggle, the simple act of inhaling sending shards of pain stabbing through his chest.

He felt the warmth of his blood spreading, soaking through his shirt, the metallic tang filling his nostrils. Every bit of his being was calling for him to voice his pain but he forced himself to settle for a grunt. Lexi's eyes widened in horror as she saw the blood, her hands instinctively reaching out to him. Some of the blood had splashed on her face but from the bewildered look in her eyes, she hadn't noticed it yet.

A surge of pain shot through him as she pressed his wound, and a groan escaped his lips before he could stop it. Panic flashed in Lexi's eyes. She knew they couldn't afford to make any noise. Without thinking, she leaned forward, her lips meeting his in a desperate attempt to silence him.

The kiss was urgent, filled with fear and raw emotion, a plea for him to stay quiet, to stay with her. Rakim's eyes widened in surprise, the pain momentarily forgotten as Lexi's lips pressed against his. Her kiss was soft yet insistent, diverting his attention from the consuming pain running through his body.

The kiss muffled the sounds of his pain, turning his groans into muffled gasps swept away by the blaring alarm. The pain was excruciating, each breath a struggle as her kiss kept him calm. He could feel the warmth of his blood seeping through his clothes, the metallic tang filling his nostrils. Lexi's eyes were filled with tears, but she tried to remain calm not able to enjoy her first kiss.

Toby's footsteps moved away, the sound of his voice growing fainter. "Maybe I was wrong, or I killed them already," he muttered, frustration evident in his tone. "One more stripe won't change things anyways." The relief for the two of them was immediate but neither dared to move a muscle. They had watched too many movies with last-minute jumpscare just as the characters thought they were safe.