## Football 211

Chapter 211 Heart To Heart

Treating everyone as if they were special quickly became a burden to her mentally. Everything came crashing down at the end-of-year party in her freshman year. She had been drinking a lot that night as she was at a party by herself since Emma was at a dance competition.

Olivia was home but her mother wouldn't let her attend any school party knowing how these things went. Thus she was alone at a party filled with all her classmates and even more from other grades. Usually, she would be here with Jenna who would take care of her keeping he company.

She only really drank more when she felt alone and with one of her friends there, she never did. But that day was just one of those days where she was alone. It's not like she could blame her friends as each of them had something they were passionate about.

Emma loved to dance, whilst Liv had been on track to become a tennis pro since she could walk. Much less Jenna who is smart, like crazy smart to the point she wondered why she didn't skip a few grades. Not having a passion like her friends she often times found herself feeling lonely.

That night after drinking too much she started to feel dizzy which was new to her given how high her tolerance had become. She realised that something must have been wrong with the drink she had been sipping. It was handed to her and she didn't know whose hand it was but it wasn't anything new for her.

Realising she was in trouble she headed for the bathroom her steps more tipsy than usual. Reaching a bathroom she splashed water in her face managing to regain some clarity. Not locking the door proved to be a mistake though as a tall figure entered instantly reaching out to grab her.

His reflection in the mirror was blurry to her but she knew she was in trouble and had to get out. Her first instinct wasn't to run though as she turned surprisingly swift and swung her combat-like boots. It was as if she remembered all her taekwondo lessons and channelled it in one kick.

The guy who had reached his hand out to block her mouth didn't anticipate this leaving his crown jewels completely unprotected. A soft crunch was heard in the bathroom as the burly boy fell over holding his family jewels. Not bothering to look at who it was she squeezed open the door inadvertently banging it on his head.

She ran for a while looking for a familiar figure but everyone seemed like a stranger now. Their smile and questions asking if she was ok now carried a mocking tone to them. She only came to a stop when she literally ran into Rakim who had just arrived at the party.

The boy caught her in his arms before she could fall, catching her arms swinging for his face. She almost kicked for his crown jewels too but realised who it was just in time. She was Barley able to explain what happened in a slurred whisper before promptly falling asleep.

~~~

"That reminds me what happened to Mark Zachary?" May suddenly asked as she remembered that after that day Mark never appeared in school again. She only found out later that it was him who had tried to molest her after returning from her stint in rehab.

Before she could even think about how to deal with the guy who had caused her to take a reality check on where her life was going. When asking her friends none of them knew why Mark had suddenly transferred to a boarding school. They hinted it might have something to do with Rakim but the boy never admitted to anything.

"He realised just how unsafe our school can be, Heard he run into quite a few walls and something about girls talking about his limp D\*\*k," Rakim responded with a sly smile seemingly remembering a fond memory. "Things just got too hot for him and he couldn't handle the pressure," he continued in a matter-of-fact tone not willing to disclose his role in anything.

"haha," May chuckled softly at Rakim's response, appreciating his ability to lighten the mood even in the face of serious topics. "Well, karma has its ways, doesn't it?" Rakim grinned, his eyes reflecting a mix of amusement and a hint of something deeper. "Yeah, it seems like it."

They both fell into a comfortable atmosphere, engaging in some conversations as they caught up. May filled him in on what had been happening at school once they returned. The school underwent some changes adding some more stringent security systems. They also added more grief clubs for those who had died and helped them deal with the trauma.

Both May and Emma felt suffocated for the first two weeks not able to last a whole day. However, over time they managed to regain some of their confidence. Like Rakim had to retrain his shoulder they too had to learn to trust that they could be safe again in school.

Dean Lance Oak especially put more emphasis on safety employing more security guards. Despite feeling safer now May revealed that she no longer planned to go to college in the States once she graduates. She made up her mind to travel the world for a while going on an adventure.

"You gonna travel alone?" Rakim asked her with a hint of curiosity as he realised that his friends were starting to make plans for the future. He heard from his mom that Liv was going pro on the tennis circuit and already had two major sponsors lined up.

With everyone taking a major step into their future, It makes his uncertain future much clearer. Now that he was just a step away from being 100% he still needed a team to play for. Playing in youth competitions just doesn't excite him anymore and he yearns for those bright lights.

"Probably, Emma applied to Cambraig and I did too but I'm not sure if I'll go," She responded with an uncertain smile probably on the fence about this life-changing decision. "I think I'll take my influencer career more seriously and take the leap to record a song," She continued not making eye contact with the boy already expecting him to discurge her dream.

She had always loved to sing but never dared to take it seriously after her Dad shot it down. According to him 'entertaining is something clowns do and the Parkers are no clowns'. That was when she was 8 years old and had her dreams shattered by her hero. Ever since then she never dared to chase anything with her full might.

"I don't think you should do it," his calm reply entered her ears causing her world to suddenly stop. She had expected to be discouraged from her goal since it's a long shot for someone to become famous but she didn't expect such a blunt reply.

Multiple emotions ran through her head at once, but the one that dominated was anger. She pulled at his collar turning him to face her and exclaimed "Why not!" She wanted an answer now and it had to be reasonable enough to calm her anger.

"Just because," were the only words that left his lips as he looked into her eyes that quickly turned watery. "you won't have enough time for me if you become famous," he quickly explained after realising that he had taken his little joke too far.

| "What? you, argh, I hate you," She was barely able to say these words as she continued to change her mind the longer she spoke. Toungtied as she processed his words she settled in punching him in annoyance as realisation hit her.                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| "Aww," He exclaimed in response holding his right shoulder instantly causing the girl to panic. "Rakim are you ok, I'm sorry I didn't mean to," She said genuinely apologetic at her actions as she had forgotten about his injury in the heat of the moment.                                          |
| "Pfft hahaha, please stay this gullible when you get famous," he responded with a laugh standing up without a hint of the earlier pain. If May was angry before now she was pissed off for sure, but before she could swing again he put an arm over her shoulder and dragged her back into the house. |
| "I hate you," was the only thing she was able to say in response resulting in a bright smile on the boy's face.                                                                                                                                                                                        |