

# **Bad Boy's Protection Chapter 21 - Making Up and Hanging Out**

## **Chapter 21: Making Up and Hanging Out**

Hailey's P.O.V

It was the end of the school day. I had not seen or heard from Avery, which means I have been worrying all day after what happened. I hope he has not been expelled because of me. I decided my best option would be to go straight to his house and find out. I was glad to be away from the place, let's say the lie I told Joshua spread like wildfire. I have been called a slut more than once. The irony of it, it was one of Mandy's friends that called me it who has slept with nearly every guy in our grade including Avery and Joshua. I ignored her before I said something I would regret. I headed out of the school gates, going to head in the direction of Avery's.

"Hey kitten, did you miss me?" I heard a familiar voice from beside me.

"Where the heck have you been? Why did you not text me back? I have been worrying about you all day. What happened?" I asked like a crazy woman.

Avery laughed, pulling me into his chest and hugging me.

"You do care. I am fine, I only got a warning. My battery died; that's why I never texted you back." He whispered, looking down at me.

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"You never got expelled? Thank God for that." I said, managing to give him a small smile.

I cut him out of my life for ages did I not? Like what a day and a half? I cannot stay mad at him after he stuck up for me that way.

"Hailey, I am really sorry about Saturday. I acted like a complete asshole. You never deserved that. I never meant any of what I said to you, Dane is a good guy. I had no right going off at him either. Can we go back to being friends, please? I have missed you, got used to seeing you every day." He said softly, giving me his best puppy dog eyes.

"Okay, but this is your last chance, Avery," I said sternly.

"Okay, thank you." He said, kissing the top of my head.

He pulled away from me, standing against the wall.

"Where are you off to anyway?" He asked.

"I was on my way to your place to make sure you were okay." I replied.

"Awww, how sweet. Do you want to hang out? Go to my place and watch a movie?" He asked hopefully.

I nodded, smiling at him. He wrapped his arm around my shoulder as we headed to his house.

"I heard something interesting at school today." He said, trying to hide his smirk.

I knew what he meant but decided to play dumb.

"You did? Anything exciting?" I asked.

"Apparently, I took your virginity over the weekend. How drunk was I?" He laughed, "I am sure I would remember something like that."

I felt my face turn red, making me look at the ground. I could feel him watching me, waiting for a response.

"Sorry. Joshua was all in my face, annoying me, and pissing me off. He asked if I was sleeping with you and I told him, yes to shut him up." I said nervously, chewing on my lip.

"It is fine. I do not mind if it pisses Joshua off. You know we could make that a reality if you like." He said the last part with a cheeky smile on his face.

"Shut up," I said pushing him.

"I'm only messing with you kitten." He laughed.

I stuck my tongue out at him laughing too. I still want to know why they hate each other as much as they do. All I know is it has to do with Avery's best friend. If he wants to tell me he would, I guess. A comfortable silence came between us, but I had a feeling he wanted to ask me something.

"What is on your mind? I can tell you wanna ask me something." I said, looking at him.

"When is your date with Dane?" He asked quietly.

"Saturday," I replied trying not to sound too excited.

"Cool. Does that mean we can't be kissing buddies now?" He pouted at me making me giggle.

"Don't know. Ask me again on Saturday night." I shrugged.

"Until then? Because that's still five days away." He laughed.

"Avery shut up." I giggled prodding his side.

"Hey, a guy needs to know these things." He said, hands in the air.

"I am sure you have plenty of girls to kiss and do whatever else with." I giggled.

"I guess." He shrugged.

Something was not right here. Why doesn't he seem to like that idea? It seems to be one of his favorite things to do in life, hook up. I looked at him raising my brow. He gave me a small smile and shrugged. I decided it would be better to leave it at that. We soon arrived at Avery's.

"Hailey!" Christie said excited rushing over to hug me.

"Hi Christie," I said, hugging her back.

She seemed okay today, which I was glad of and by the look on Avery's face, he was delighted to. Once she pulled away, her attention turned to him.

"The school called. What happened?" Christie asked softly.

"Sorry. He was sticking up for me. My ex was getting a little handsy and rough." I said, embarrassed.

"Oh, sorry sweetie. I am glad to know my son had your back." She smiles.

"Always." He said, smiling at me, making me blush.

Avery and I sat with his mom having a quick bite to eat, giving her some company.

"We were gonna watch a movie if you want to join us." He smiled at her.

"Thank you, but it is okay. You two go to your room and watch a movie. I have soaps to catch up on." She smiled, "But Hailey, come and say goodbye before you leave." She added.

"Of course I will." I smiled, giving her another hug.

We headed to his bedroom, I have never been in it, so it is the first time. I was surprised when I saw it. It was very tidy and decorated nicely. I was expecting it to be a mess, posters of naked girls everywhere and painted black or something.

"Don't look as surprised. I am a clean person, even though I am a teenage boy." He laughed.

"I was expecting naked girls and pornos." I laughed.

"Naked girls on my walls, no... pornos, well that is some thing else." He winked.

"Ewww," I said disgusted at him, making him chuckle.

What is it with guys and pornos? Are they all perverted? I could never watch one, even the thought of it makes me squirm. I should've known he would have some. I do not also want to know what he does when he's watching them. Well, I guess I know but that is an image my pure, innocent mind does not need a big no-no.

"Get over it. Make yourself comfortable. I'm gonna grab a quick shower then I'll be right with you. Pick a movie and please no chick flicks. My eyes can't cope with watching another one of them." He laughed, stripping down to his boxers as he did.

I made sure my eyes were looking at everywhere except him and his half naked body. I do not need him using that as an excuse to tease me thank you very much. I need to behave because I have a date on Saturday and looking at Avery that would feel a little wrong. I was glad when he disappeared for a shower. I went to look through the movies he had, trying to find something to watch. I swear every second DVD was a porno... Yuck! I decided on the Lethal Weapon box set. I love myself some Lethal Weapon. I put it in the DVD player, making myself comfortable on the bed, waiting for him to come back.

"What crap did you choose?" He said, appearing a towel around his waist.

Do not look, Hailey. Do not look; I kept saying to myself. I failed miserably because my eyes found their way to his body, trailing it for a moment before pulling away.

"Lethal Weapon box set." I said, smiling widely at him. "You have too many dirty movies. I think you need to see someone about that." I added laughing.

"Don't lie do you wanna watch them all with me." He winked.

I grabbed one of his pillows, throwing it out his face laughing.

"Honestly though, good choice of a movie." He laughed.

I gave him my best dorkiest smile, nodding my head. I made myself comfortable, looking away as he started getting changed into some clothes. I do not need to see him completely naked; thank you very much. Once he was dressed, he made his way over to me, laying down next to me.

As soon as he laid down next to me, he pulled me close to him. He wrapped his arm around me tightly, and I shifted. I snuggled close to him, resting my head on his chest. I listened to his heartbeat in his chest. It soothed me hearing it made me smile. His fingers was in my hair, playing with it as he hit the play button on the movie. I do not know if he realized he was doing it.

"I missed you." He said in a whisper.

I looked up at him, giving him a shy smile.

"I missed you too," I said shyly.

He reached down, stroking my cheek softly. I closed my eyes, moving into his touch. I felt him inching closer to me, he's hot breath tickling my cheek. I swallowed hard, expecting his lips to press against mine. Instead, he pulled away sighing, not saying a single word, turning his attention back to the movie. What is wrong with him? Maybe it was because I have a date with someone he knows on the weekend. I decided to let it be. I never wanted any more arguments or drama. I sighed, pulling away from him, turning my attention to the movie too.

"You okay?" He asked.

"Yes, fine," I said giving him my best smile.

He seemed to believe me, and it got dropped. Maybe it was for the best.

## **Bad Boy's Protection Chapter 22 - The Bad Boys Going Soft**

### **Chapter 22: The Bad Boys Going Soft**

Avery's P.O.V

It was after ten pm, Hailey was fast asleep next to me, she fell asleep halfway through Lethal Weapon 3. She was snuggling into my side, her face buried in my tee. I smiled, stroking her hair. I grabbed her cell, sending a text to her mom, pretending to be her.

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Hailey to mom: Hey, staying at Layla's tonight. Having a girl's night, see you tomorrow. Night love you x

Mom: Ok, sweetie. See you, tomorrow love, you too x

~~~~~

At least that worked. I sent Layla a text too, telling her I told Hailey's mom that she was staying with her so she can stay here because she was fast asleep. As I went to put her phone down a text came through from Dane. I only saw what was on the screen. I was not going to read her texts that would be wrong.

~~~~~

Dane: Hey beautiful

~~~~~

That was all I saw, and I rolled my eyes without meaning too. I sat her phone down and gently pulled away from her, going to check on my mom. I found her fast asleep on the sofa. I went over slowly, shaking her.

"Mom, go to bed," I whispered.

"Okay." She smiled tiredly.

"Hailey is staying tonight, is that okay?" I asked.

"Okay. Son, don't do to her what you usually do. She is better than that." She said, giving me a small smile.

"I know mom. I am trying not to." I replied.

She nodded, hugging me, and kissing my cheek.

"Night son, love you." She smiled.

"Night mom, I love you too," I replied as she headed into her bedroom.

I grabbed some bottles of juice before heading back to my bedroom. Hailey was still sound asleep. I stripped down to my boxers, heading back over to the bed.

"What time is it?" I heard her say tiredly.

"Just after ten. I texted your mom from your phone pretending to be you, saying you were staying at Layla's and text Layla to tell her too in case your mom called her. You can crash here tonight." I smiled.

"Okay. Can I steal a top from you please to sleep in?" She asked shyly sitting up.

"Sure thing. You want a pair of boxers too?" I asked.

"Yes, please." She said blushing, making me chuckle.

I nodded heading over to the drawer, grabbing her what she needed, passing them to her. She stood from the bed, heading into the bathroom. I climbed under the covers, waiting for her to come back. I looked up when I heard her come back, swallowing hard when I see her. Damn! She looked good in my clothes. I bit down on my lip as I watched her. She rushed over to the bed, jumping under the covers as quickly as she could, hiding. I chuckled, making her look at me.

"Kitten, what is with the hiding? I have seen you wearing less. You look good in my clothes, though." I smirked, winking at her.

She giggled, blushing before sending me a glare.

"You wanna go back to sleep, or you wanna put a movie or something on?" I asked.

"Don't think I will last a movie, maybe put something on the TV for an hour." She said.

I nodded flicking through the channels, deciding on Family Guy. Hailey laid down using my bare chest as a pillow again. She rested her warm hands on my stomach. I shivered slightly under her touch. She giggled, making me look down at her.

"What are you giggling about?" I asked, raising my brow at her.

"No reason." She replied giggling again.

"Bullshit!" I laughed.

She gave me a dorky smile, making me laugh. A silence fell between us. Our eyes not leaving each other. Her fingertips started tracing my chest.

"Hailey, what are you doing?" I breathed out.

"Nothing." She said, stopping it, "I think I am gonna go to sleep, still really tired." She added, giving me a small smile pulling away.

"Okay," I replied a little disappointed.

I switched the TV off, leaving the room with a small light from the bedside lamp. I rolled onto my side, Hailey doing the same.

"You sure you are okay?" I asked.

"Yes." She replied, reaching over running her hand over my cheek, "You have the most beautiful eyes." She added randomly, blushing again.

"Thank you." I chuckled, soon stopping when she ran her hands through my hair before stroking my cheek again.

I closed my eyes, sighing. I knew I probably should not, but I reached forward capturing her face between my hands, inching closer to her. I left a small space between us, giving her the chance to close it. I soon felt her warm lips press against mine. Her arms were coming around my neck. I gripped her hips, pulling her front against mine, a groan coming from her lips. I felt Hailey's warm tongue run along my bottom lip wanting access into my mouth. I gave into her, parting my lips and letting her take the lead. I let out an animal-like growl as I felt her tongue massage against mine. She giggled against my lips before her fingernails traced down my back.

There was something different about it this time. My urge for her was more potent than usual. I think it may be because she has someone wanting her attention. I slid my hand between the covers. One hand going to her bare thigh, grabbing it roughly and hooking it around my hip. Hailey not protesting against it. She moved her hands, placing them on my chest, pushing on it until I was on my back. She climbed on top of me, sitting on my stomach, looking down at me, biting her lower lip.

"Hailey, what are you doing?" I breathed out, stroking her hips.

"Do you want me to stop?" She asked quietly.

"Yes. No. I don't know." I replied in a stutter. "What about Dane?" I added.

Why am I giving a fuck about him? He knew the rules before he even went after her. When I mentioned his name, she stopped what she was doing, whatever that would have been.

"Did you need to bring him up right now?" She giggled.

"It is just you have a date with him. I don't know how much you like him." I added.

Seriously? What the fuck is going on with me? She is making me soft. I need to snap out of it.

"Maybe we should stop then." She said, sounding a little disappointed.

"Or not?" I smirked up at her, my hands going to her ass.

"But you are the one that suggested it...oh well." She shrugged. "Better luck next time." She added, trying to hide her smirk.

She was teasing me. Since when does Hailey tease? She went to move off me, but I was not going to let her do that. I pushed her onto her back, climbing on top of her. I pressed my lips against hers before another word could be said. She whimpered loudly, her fingers wrapping in my hair, tugging at it roughly as I forced my tongue back into her mouth.



She hooked her legs around my hips. The kiss was different again; I could feel the want in her lips. I ground my body against hers, causing her to moan loudly into my lips. I slid my hands under the tee she had on, my fingers trailing her ribs and stomach, going towards her bra covered breasts. She was not trying to stop me. I groped her through her bra, making her whimper into the kiss. I slowly slid my hands downwards, resting my hand above the band of my boxers she had on. I pulled away from her lips, looking down at her, needing to know if I should go any further. She was looking up at me, her breathing heavy. I looked at her, seeing she never wanted me to stop.

"Are you sure?" I breathed out.

She never answered, only nodded her head at me. I smirked, making her giggle. I pushed my hand under the boxers sliding downwards. She gasped a little and then at the worst time possible what my mom said to me played in my head and I quickly pulled away.

"I can't. I am sorry. Not right now." I said, regretting the words I said to her.

"Why?" She asked, seeming hurt.

"Because it doesn't feel right that's why," I said.

"Okay, can you move, please? I am tired." She said, refusing to look at me.

I nodded, rolling off her. As soon as I did, she turned away from me, pulling the covers over her face, switching the lamp off. Great! Now she was pissed at me. Why the heck did I stop? Is that not what I want? I do not think I like this side of myself. I groaned, annoyed at myself. Thought I am meant to be a bad boy? Bad boys do not do what I just did. I need to sort myself out. I rolled onto my side, pressing my front against her back, placing my hand on her hip, leaning down, kissing her neck softly.

"Avery, what are you doing?" She whispered, shivering under my fingertips.

"Kissing your neck." I purred in her ear, a small whimper coming from her lips.

"Why? You wanted to stop, not me?" She asked, refusing to look at me.

"Come on kitten, don't be like that. I don't want you doing anything you would regret." I whispered, my lips now on her shoulders.

"Avery it is more than that. You have been weird with me all night. Why?" She asked, turning to face me.

"Because. actually it doesn't matter." I said sighing.

I was glad the room was in darkness, or she would see the look I had on my face. I am not going to lie. I hate knowing that she is going on a date with someone else, especially when I know the guy, she is going on a date with is a nice guy. It pissed me off.

"Avery tell me. I don't want any more lies." She said sternly.

Here goes nothing. She will head straight for the door once I say what I am going to say. I know she will, and I do not blame her.

"The fact that you are going on a date with someone pisses me off Hailey, especially because I know he is a decent guy. The complete opposite of me. I do not know why it gets to me; it just does. I know I have no right, but I can't help it." I said, without stopping for a breath.

"No, you don't have a right, Avery. I do not get it, you sound jealous, but you do not get jealous. You do not want me, not really. You only want one thing from me. You only wanna be friends, yet it pisses you off when someone else wants me, why is that?" She said.

I wanted to answer her question, but I never knew how. I went to open my mouth, but no words came out.

"Forget it, Avery. I don't wanna get into this again." She said calmly.

"Okay," I said sighing.

"Thank you. Now shhh, I need sleep, and I want cuddles." She said giggling.

Whoa! Wait! That I was not expecting, but I am thankful because I am fed up arguing and fighting with her too. I chuckled, her turning away from me, tugging at my arm. I smiled, shifting closer to her, resting my arm over her waist. She linked her fingers through mine.

"Night, night Avery." She whispered tiredly.

"Night, Kitten," I replied, kissing her cheek before settling down.

Tomorrow is a new day, I guess.

## **Bad Boy's Protection Chapter 23 - No Sparks**

### **Chapter 23: No Sparks**

Hailey's P.O.V

Layla, Mason, Avery, and I were all hanging out at Mason's. Layla and Mason are curled up on the sofa, Avery and I sitting on the floor. It was Friday night. Mason and Avery were invited to a party, but for some reason, neither of them could be bothered going, which is strange. They decided they would hang out with us instead, not like we minded.

"Hailey, any idea where Dane is taking you on your date?" Layla asked.

My date was tomorrow; I was nervous about it. Dane and I had been talking a lot; we seemed to get along well. That was a good start, that should make it easier.

"Dinner and ice skating. He never wanted to tell me, but I made him." I giggled.

"Good choice, at least you know what to wear then." Layla giggled. "What are you going to wear?" She added.

"I have two outfits to pick from, can you come over tomorrow and help me choose please?" I asked, looking at her. "I wanna make sure it is the right choice," I added.

"Of course." She smiled brightly.

"It is only a date. Not a ball or something." Avery groaned, rolling his eyes.

"What is wrong with you today? You have been in a mood all day. Are you okay?" I asked, looking at him.

"I am fine. Just fed up hearing about Dane and your blooming date with him." He hissed, jumping to his feet, walking away.

I turned to Mason and Layla, raising a brow at them.

"What is wrong with him?" I asked.

"You don't see it do you?" Mason laughed.

"See what?" I asked, confused.

Mason chuckled, shaking his head, and not saying another word. Layla and I looked at each other confused.

"Mason?" Layla said, looking at him.

"Think about it. That is all I am saying." He laughed.

I flipped him off, rolling my eyes at him. I decided to check on Avery. I found him sitting out back on the stairs, staring into space. I slowly made my way over to him, sitting

down next to him. He sighed, turning to face me and giving me a fake smile before turning away from me. I reached for his hand, but he pulled away.

"Avery, have I done something wrong?" I asked softly.

"Just leave me alone." He snapped storming off.

I sat there, having no clue what was going on. I felt tears burn up in the corner of my eyes, not understanding. We have been getting along great these last few days. I reached up, wiping my eyes; I was not going to cry over this. I needed to get away from here. I headed back inside, Avery nowhere in sight.

"Where did he go?" I asked.

"He left. He went to that party." Mason said.

"Oh...Okay. I think I am gonna head home." I said.

"Hailey, you don't need to," Mason said.

"I know but not in the mood. You two kids have fun, be safe though." I winked at them, Mason chuckling and Layla blushing.

I hugged them goodbye, heading home. I didn't stay too far away from Mason's. I sighed, running my hands through my hair. I grabbed my phone, texting Dane.

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Hailey: Hey, what are you doing? Are you free for coffee?

Dane: Sure thing, meet you at Starbucks in 20 mins?

Hailey: Yes. See you then. :)

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I smiled to myself, heading towards Starbucks. I was looking forward to seeing him because I had not seen him since that night at the lake. I decided I was not going to let Avery get to me. I soon arrived at Starbucks, Dane was waiting outside. He smiled when he saw me. I made my way to him, giving him a quick hug.

"Hey, you." He smiled, pulling away.

"Hi." I smiled sweetly at him.

We headed inside, ordering a latte each, splitting a cookie between us.

"You okay? You seem a little off?" Dane asked.

"Yeah, fine. I argued with a friend. Well, not exactly my friend is mad at me, and I don't know why." I shrugged.

"I am sure you will sort it out." He smiled, giving my hand a quick squeeze.

"Hopefully." I smiled.

"You been doing much since I saw you?" I asked.

"Busy with work and college." He smiled.

"Cool. How is college going?" I asked.

"Stressful but fine." He laughed.

After that, the conversation seemed to flow easily between us. He really was sweet and funny too. His laugh was beautiful. I was excited to spend more time with him, get to know him. My phone vibrated on the table. I ignored it but seen on the screen who the text was from, Avery. I pushed it away, turning my full attention back to Dane.

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Dane and I had just pulled up outside my house. After coffee, we went for ice cream. He has put me in a good mood. He was a sweetheart.

"I am looking forward to our second date." He winked.

"Second?" I giggled.

"Yes, I am going to class tonight as our first date." He laughed.

"Okay. That is fine with me." I smiled.

A silence came between us, Dane looking at me. He reached forward, taking my face between his hands, inching closer to me.

"Can I kiss you?" He whispered.

"Yes." I breathed out.

He leaned forward placing his lips over mine in a soft kiss. He had sweet lips, but I never felt anything...no spark...no butterflies. All the things that I feel when Avery kisses me. Hmm, that is disappointing. It only lasted a moment before we pulled apart.

"Hmmm," He said, looking confused.

"That didn't feel right, did it?" I said.

"No. That is disappointing." He said. "Maybe try again?" He added.

I nodded, kissing him again but again, there was no spark. We pulled apart.

"I guess maybe we are only meant to be friends?" He said disappointed.

"I guess," I said sadly.

"Maybe if we hang out, get to know each other things will develop." He said.

"Maybe. I would like that." I smiled.

"Me too. Well, instead of a date tomorrow how about lunch or something Sunday?" He said.

"Yes, that sounds good. Still disappointed though because you are sweet." I smiled.

"I know maybe in time these things will change. And thank you, you too." He smiled.

We stayed in the car, talking for a bit before hugging and saying goodbye to one another. I grabbed my phone, texting Layla.

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Hailey: I ended up hanging out with Dane. We kissed but nothing...no spark...no connection, gonna just be friends. Not the same things I feel when Avery kisses me. What is all that about?

Layla: Really? That sucks, I am sorry Hailey. Maybe because you like Avery?

Hailey: Me too. What are you doing anyway? Did Avery come back?

Layla: In bed reading. No, he never came back. I know what Mason meant when he said to think about how Avery acted.

Hailey: Do tell?

Layla: Mason thinks he was jealous. He thinks Avery likes you and wants to be more than what you are.

Hailey: What? I do not think so. Avery does not do more.

Layla: Think about it, Hailes?

Hailey: I do not believe it, sorry. You and I both know what he is like, he hooks up only. I do not need that, not in that way. Avery and I are better as friends.

Layla: Yes, friends that make out? Hehe. Well, I think Mason is right but okay then lol. I am going to get some sleep. See you tomorrow? Night, love you.

Hailey: Shut up! Lol, yes we can do something tomorrow, need a girl's day. Night, love you too.

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After I finished texting Layla, I checked the message Avery sent me earlier. I opened it, not expecting the words that were on the screen.

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Avery: Don't go on a date with Dane, please?

That is all that is said. What does that even mean?

Hailey: What? Why would you say that? What does that even mean?

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I waited and waited for him to text back but he never did. I was annoyed and confused. I decided the best thing for me would be to just sleep. I changed into my pajamas, climbing under the covers, hoping I would sleep. I would be calling him first thing tomorrow. If he answers or not, that is a different story.

## **Bad Boy's Protection Chapter 24 - The Bad Boy Meets the Parents**

### **Chapter 24: The Bad Boy Meets the Parents**

Hailey's P.O.V

"Hailey sweetie wake up." I heard my mom's sweet voice, whisper, shaking me gently.

"What's wrong? What time is it?" I asked, rubbing my eyes.

"It is eleven A.M., not like you sleeping this late." She giggled, "You have a guest." She added.

"A guest?" I asked, confused.

She nodded, smirking "A very handsome one." She added laughing.

"Uh?" I asked, confused.

"Will see you downstairs." She smiled, leaving.

Who could that possibly be? I groaned, pulling myself out of bed. I ran my fingers through my hair before heading down in my pajamas. As I made my way down, I heard my dad in the kitchen laughing with someone. I would know that laugh anywhere. I headed into the kitchen, finding my dad and Avery sitting having coffee and chatting like old friends.

"Um...morning," I said, making them both look at me.

"Morning, sweetheart." My dad smiled.

"Morning Kitten." Avery smiled at me.

Did he just call me kitten in front of my father? Who does that? I looked at him, confused, making him chuckle. I see eyes trail me for a moment due to only being in shorts and a strappy tee. He quickly pulled away before my dad saw him doing it.

"Coffee?" My dad asked.

"Yes, please," I replied.

My dad went over getting me some coffee, and I made my way over to Avery.

"What you doing here? I thought you were mad at me for some unknown reason." I said only loud enough for him to hear.

"I missed you kitten that is all. Sorry about last night. We will talk about it later." He smiled pushing my hair from my eyes.

I nodded, sitting down next to him, my dad coming back and my mom soon joining. I was still confused because I did not think Avery was the meeting the parent's kind of guy. I felt him place his hand on my knee under the table, giving it a quick squeeze before leaving it there. I took a deep breath, enjoying his touch on my skin, even with something as innocent.

"How long have you two been friends?" My mom asked "Are you only friends?" She added, trying to hide a smirk.

"A few weeks now. Met at school which I was new at." Avery smiled.



"And yes mom, we are only friends," I said, shaking my head laughing, Avery looking a little hurt when I said that.

"What was the matter with your old school?" My dad asked curiously.

"I am not going to lie to you; I got into some trouble and got expelled. I am trying my best to get my act together." He said honestly.

I turned glaring at him. Why would he tell them that? Is he trying to get them to say to me I can't hang out with him? Maybe that is his plan. Perhaps he has got fed up with me...got a better offer.

"These things happen, at least you are trying son." My dad smiled at him.

I swear, I think I am dreaming. What is happening right now?

"If you try hard enough, you will get there. Hailey's father was the same in school. Always getting into trouble. He was sort of one of the bad boys of the school." My mom giggled.

"You were?" I asked, shocked.

"Yes, I was a bit of an asshole." He laughed.

"What made you change?" Avery asked.

"Hailey's mother actually. I was always crazy about her, but she was more of your good girl type. The same as Hailey in many ways. She refused to give me a chance unless I changed, so I did. Then in our last year of high school, she got pregnant with Hailey and that is when I realized even more that it was time to grow up." My dad said, grabbing my mother's hand, smiling at her.

They were still so much in love with each other, even after being together for nineteen years. That is the kind of relationship I want in my life. I want someone to look at me the way my father still looks at my mom. Then again, I will never be that lucky.

"How do I not know any of this? How bad were you?" I laughed.

"Drinking, partying, getting arrested, sleeping around and ditching school." My mom said, looking at him.

I looked at him shocked; I honestly had no clue about any of this. My dad was laughing at my reaction.

"It was a long time ago." He said.

"And Hailey's mother changed it all? What age were you when you got together?" Avery asked.

"We were sixteen when we first got together. Yes, sometimes that is all a man needs, son. A good woman that will set him straight, help him change for the better but still accepts your past without judgment." My dad smiled at him.

Avery then looked at me. A strange look in his eyes but quickly pulled away. What was that all about?

"Sixteen? That is a young age to fall that hard is it not?" Avery asked.

"You are never too young to fall in love. No matter what people say." My mom smiled.

"I guess.:" Avery shrugged.

I sensed he was getting a little uneasy. My parents must have felt it too because they soon changed the subject.

"What are your plans for today?" My mom asked, looking at us both.

"Layla is coming over except that...no plans," I said.

"Avery?" She asked.

"Nothing at the moment." He shrugged.

"Well, it's a lovely day you should all go out and do something fun." My dad suggested.

"There is nothing to do around here." I laughed, Avery, agreeing with me.

"I am sure you all can find something. Your mother and I have errands to run. When we get back, I hope you are not still inside, or I will kick your asses out." My dad laughed.

My mom and dad left, leaving me alone with Avery. I could feel his eyes on me, butterflies in my stomach. I slowly turned to face him. I swear he was closer now than he was two seconds ago.

"Can we have that talk now, please? It is important." He said seriously, a look I am not used to seeing in his eyes.

"Yes," I whispered.

He stepped in close to me, hands gently placed on my hips, and looking at me with an intense look in his eyes. I swallowed hard, my heart seeming to beat that little faster.

"Hailey, do not go on a date with him, please?" He asked, a begging look in his eyes.

Those words again, surely what Mason told Layla can't be right? It is Avery. He does not do more than hookups, so why is the thought of me on a date with someone else getting to him?

"Why?" I asked.

"Because." He said.

"Because why? You can't say something like that then not tell me why." I said softly.

"Because I want." He started but before he could finish.

"Hailey?" I heard Layla call.

"Kitchen," I called back, not taking my eyes away from Avery.

"Fuck!" He hissed under his breath, pulling away from me.

Damn it how could Layla not have come in a few minutes later? She walked into the kitchen, looking at me then at Avery.

"Everything okay?" She smiled.

"Yes," Avery answered, smiling at her.

I nodded, Layla, not believing me by the look on her face.

"I am gonna call Mason be back in a minute." He smiled headed into the living room.

"Did I interrupt something?" She asked.

"He asked me not to go on a date with Dane. Before you came in, he was going to tell me something. Layla, what does this mean?" I asked.

"That he likes you too. The same way you like him. Hailey, I see the way you look at him when you think no one else is watching." She said.

I sighed, sitting back down, running my fingers through my hair.

"Layla, I wasn't meant to fall for him especially after Joshua...especially after the ways we have argued more than once. I can't do it, Layla, I really can't. It is all going to end in heartbreak. My heart is the one that gets broken again. I can't." I said, shaking my head.

"You can't do what?" We heard Avery's voice coming towards us.

"Nothing. It doesn't matter." I smiled, "Did you get Mason?" I added.

"Yes, I did. The four of us are going to the carnival that is in town down by the pier." He smiled.

"Okay. I need to get ready first." I giggled.

"Hurry up now kitten, not got all day." He winked at me.

I laughed, shaking my head. I headed to grab a shower and get ready for the day. I was hoping Avery and I can get to finish that chat later because I need to know what is going on. Work out if he does like me, and if he does, I need to work out if he is worth the risk. The risk of possibly getting my heart broken again.

## **Bad Boy's Protection Chapter 25 - The Truth Finally Comes Out**

### **Chapter 25: The Truth Finally Comes Out**

Hailey's P.O.V

"I want the big one." I pouted at Avery.

We were at the winter carnival that was in town. He had been trying to win me a teddy bear for the last twenty minutes at the stall that you throw hoops on top of glass bottles. He was getting annoyed because he could not get it. I was standing next to him, giggling.

"Not funny." He said, glaring at me.

Mason and Layla at the stall next to us, shooting plastic ducks with water guns, having a ball, and laughing hysterically at how bad they both were at it. I smiled, watching them. I want that. What the two have, it was sweet. They were both smitten with one another. To be honest with you, I think Mason was possibly falling in love with her. Even after only a couple of weeks. You could see it when he looked at her. I think she was the same, even though neither of them would admit it. I went into a world of my own, getting a little sad. I thought I had that with Joshua when it was all lies. As for Avery, even if I do like him, I know I will never get that from him, not in that way.

"Kitten? Earth to kitten?" I heard him say, making me pull out of thought.

He was standing in front of me, the biggest smile on his lips, holding a vast tiger teddy in his hand.

"Told you I would get it." He winked.

"YEAH! Thank you." I said, smiling brightly at him.

"It is only a teddy baby girl." He chuckled.

"What? I like teddy bears. I am still a big child at heart." I giggled.

He laughed, shaking his head, wrapping his arm around my shoulder.

"You are such a dork, a cute one though." He laughed, kissing the top of my head.

I looked up at him, giving him my dorkiest smile. We had not had a chance to finish our conversation yet, but I am determined to get it done before the day was over. He had not mentioned anything else about it or my date with Dane. I think we were all having too much fun, having shots on the rides, playing at the stalls, etc... to think about it all.

"Corn dogs ladies?" Mason smiled.

"Yes please." Layla and I said in sync.

"Two corn dogs coming right up. Do not be running off; stay put. I don't wanna be going about this place looking for you both." Avery said, shaking his finger at us, making us giggle.

"Yes, Sir." I laughed.

He shook his head, the two of them heading to the corn dog cart. Layla turned to me, and I knew what she was going to ask.

"No, we have not had a chance to finish our talk." I giggled, "Never mind Avery and I, tell me when did you start falling in love with Mason?" I added smirking.

"What? I am not in love with him. We have only been together for a couple of weeks. Yes, I like and care for him, love? A little too soon for all that don't you think?" She asked, raising her brow at me.

"If you say so," I smirked.

She glared at me, before laughing, making me do the same. We chatted as we waited for the guys to come back, which could be a while, the line was pretty long.

"Does he know that you don't have a date with Dane anymore? Did you tell him about last night?" She asked.

"Nope, it never came up," I said shrugging. "Maybe it is for the best that there was no spark between Dane and me," I added.

"You don't have a date tonight with him?" I heard behind me, making me freeze on the spot.

How long had he been behind me? How much of the conversation did he hear? I slowly turned around to face him. He was standing, looking at me, and looking a little confused but glad at the same time if that makes sense.

"No," I said, shaking my head, looking at the ground.

"Why?" He asked.

"Um... we hung out last night. We kissed, and there was nothing there. No spark... no butterflies. Dane and I are only gonna be friends." I said, finally looking up, catching his eye.

I could see the smile growing on his lips as he looked at me. He is good at hiding his disappointment... not. I glared at him, making him chuckle.

"I am glad my non-existent dating life amuses you, Avery." I pouted, folding my arms over my chest.

"Sorry. I guess some things are not meant to be. No spark or butterflies, huh? You mean the things you feel when I kiss you?" He said smirking.

I felt my full-face flush red. It was not helping that Mason and Layla were still standing there, hearing everything he is saying to me. I looked up at him, chewing my lips nervously. Was I that obvious to him?

"Don't know what you mean," I said, rolling my eyes, shrugging.

"You are a terrible liar, Hailey." He laughed.

"Shut up," I growled at him.

I shook my head, turning from him, and started walking away. I never needed him to know he was right. He does not need to know that every time he kisses or touches me my heart flutters, my body goes weak, my pulse speeds up, my breathing becomes uneasy, and I get butterflies.

The three of them soon caught up with me, Avery appearing by my side.

"I know I am right, Hailey." He whispered, a shiver shooting down my spine.

I turned to him, catching his eye. I was done lying about it. I gave him a small smile, nodding my head in agreement. I do not think he was expecting that from me. He soon took a step away from me, a worried look shooting through his eyes. I was right; he

does not like me. Layla and Mason were wrong. I was only there when no one else was. I was someone for him to kiss, make out with, flirt with, and to annoy. I refused to look at him after that, putting my attention everywhere except him.

"Where to next?" Layla asked, trying to take some of the awkwardness away.

"Ferris Wheel?" Mason suggested.

"Yeah!" Layla said excited, making me giggle, the girl loves the Ferris Wheel.

"You three go. I do not fancy it. I am going to take a walk along the beach. I will meet you all back here soon once you are done." I smiled.

"What? No!" Layla pouted.

"Honestly, I have overeaten. I will end up being sick if I go on it." I laughed.

"Fine! I will let you get away with it this time." She giggled.

I nodded, heading in the opposite direction from them. I headed down to the sand, slipping my shoes off. I sighed, running my hands through my hair; my feelings and emotions were all over the place. I needed this time alone.

"Hailey?" I heard behind me, it was Avery.

I took a deep breath, slowly turning around to face him, giving him a small smile.

"Fancy some company?" He asked hopefully.

"Yeah," I said, smiling.

I would rather be by myself, but I never wanted to seem rude. A silence came between us as we walked along the waterfront. I stopped on the spot, deciding to take a seat. He chuckled before sitting down next to me. His next move surprised me, his hand laid over mine, linking his fingers through mine. I turned to look at him, a shocked look probably on my face.

"Can we finish that talk?" He asked nervously.

I nodded, feeling myself become nervous. Avery took a few deep breaths, opening his mouth but then shutting it again.

"Avery, why did you tell me not to go on my date with Dane?" I asked, deciding to start the conversation before it became awkward.

He shifted uncomfortably, his grip seeming to tighten on my hand. I waited for him to answer, but he never did. I pulled away from him, shaking my head, jumping to my feet, and walking away from him. I was not going to wait all day for him to speak.

"Hailey, wait please?" He called after me.

I ignored because if I never did I would end up saying something I regret to him. After all, he was starting to piss me off. He soon caught up with me, grabbing my hips from behind, turning me around to face him, and pulling me into his chest.

"Because I want you. I do not want to have to watch you with Dane or any other guy for that matter. Hailey, I have been acting like a jackass on and off towards you because I like you. I like you, and that scared the heck out of me Hailey. I do not do feelings. I do not do relationships. Then you came into my life, and within only days I found myself beginning to feel things for you." He said, his eyes not leaving mine as he spoke every word to me.

Hold up. Did he honestly say all that to me, or am I imagining things? I looked at him, going to say something, no words came out. He stood there, patiently, waiting for my response.

"You do?" I asked shocked.

"I honestly do." He said, rubbing the back of his neck. "I get it if you don't feel the same, Hailey. I would understand because I am not exactly the boyfriend type. I wasn't going to say anything to you, but after listening to what your mom and dad were saying this morning, I changed my mind." He said.

"I do feel the same Avery, but I am scared you are gonna end up breaking my heart," I said sighing.

"Hailey, I can't make any promises that I will be good at this full-time thing. It is all new to me. I can't promise this will be perfect, but I am willing to try. I do not like labels, but I am willing to try the dating thing with you, see where it goes. Well, if you want too?" He asked a nervous wreck.

I smiled, leaning over, placing my lips over his, and kissing him softly. I wrapped my arms around his neck, his hand going to my cheek, his fingers in my hair. The kiss was soft, slow, nothing like all those other kisses we have shared. It was different. I smiled into his lips, him doing the same. Once we pulled away, he reached over pushing my hair behind my ear.

"I am willing to try too. No label. No expectations. See where it goes." I smiled.

"Really?" He asked, and I nodded.



The biggest smile appeared on his face before he pulled me into his chest, hugging me close. He leaned down, resting his forehead against mine.

"You need to be patient with me Kitten, okay?" I am gonna mess up another hundred times before I get it right." He said.

"I promise. No pressure for anything...no rush, I promise." He smiled, kissing me softly again.

I am expecting to wake up at any moment. I hope all this is real.