

hard feelings/loveless

by

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INT. GIRL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

GIRL is laying in bed, asleep. There is a faint sizzle of cooking bacon from the kitchen.

SFX: Alarm going off

GIRL
(Groaning and rolling over to turn
it off)
God.

She takes a deep breath, rolling. She then stops, sniffs the air, and looks to the other side of the bed. Noticing it's empty, GIRL sits up.

INT. GIRL'S KITCHEN

GIRL walks out of the bedroom, yawning. She's wearing a T-shirt and sleep shorts, nothing pretty or fancy. Her hair is a mess. BOY is at the stove flipping pancakes. His hair is shower-damp and he's wearing jeans with an unbuttoned shirt, revealing a white undershirt. Next to him is a stack of bacon, which he grabs a piece from.

GIRL
What are you doing?

BOY
Making breakfast

GIRL
(She squints)
Are those pancakes? I can't see. I don't have my contacts.
(She walks closer)
You haven't made pancakes in forever.
What's the occasion?
(GIRL grabs for a piece of bacon, but BOY slaps her hand away)

BOY
Not yet. Wait till it's done.

GIRL
(Pouting)
But you're eating some.
(Silence for a beat, then)
You never answered my question
(GIRL leans against the counter, crossing her arms to cover herself)

BOY

I don't know. I thought it was time. I wanted today to be a good day.

GIRL

(Smiling sadly)

Yeah... thank you.

BOY

(Frowning)

For what?

GIRL

The pancakes

BOY

I know they're your favorite. Plus I get bacon out of it.

GIRL

(Smiling slipping)

I'm going to go get dressed.

(She places a hand on his arm in a friendly touch. BOY tenses for a moment before relaxing)

GIRL leaves the room

INT. GIRL'S DINING ROOM

GIRL and BOY are eating. BOY's shirt is buttoned now, but his hair is still a mess. GIRL has fixed hers and now wears a pretty sundress and has a bit of mascara on. They eat in silence for a moment.

GIRL

Did you talk to your mom?

BOY

Yeah. Before you got up.

GIRL

How is she?

BOY

She's good. Just got back from her solo trip to Italy. I'm pretty sure she got wine drunk with a different man every night.

GIRL
(Obviously faking interest)
That's nice. Good for her.

BOY
(Snorts)
Good for me too. Maybe I'll have a new
dad by the end of this. You never know
with that woman

GIRL doesn't say anything. It stays silent for far too long.

BOY
So how's your sister, anyway.

GIRL
(Finishing her food)
She's good. You know Kat. Always
moving. She starts school in the city
in two weeks, so she's looking for a
place. I told her she's always welcome
if she can't find one.

BOY
(Stops chewing for a moment before
swallowing)
Here?

GIRL
(Oblivious to his hesitation)
Of course. Kat's always welcome in my
place

BOY looks at her for a moment, seeming like he wants to say
more. After a second, he takes a long sip of coffee,
swallowing hard.

GIRL stands and grabs her empty plate and mug. She reaches
for BOY's empty plate, but he shakes his head

BOY
I've got it.

GIRL just nods and takes her plate into the kitchen. BOY
remains seated for a moment and sighs.

EXT. UPPER EAST SIDE ACROSS FROM CENTRAL PARK - AFTERNOON

BOY and GIRL are walking next to each other in silence.
GIRL's hands are by her side and BOY's arms are crossed. He
glances at her from the corner of his eye and drops his arms.

He brushes his finger across her hand like he's trying to hold it and watches as she she shrugs her hand away and crosses her arms.

GIRL
It's getting chilly

BOY
(tugging his jacket closer)
Yeah. (flat)

They continue to walk in an awkward silence for another few moments. Every once in a while it seems like one wants to speak up, but neither ever do.

BOY
(eventually)
So where are we going, anyway.

GIRL
You'll see. We're almost there.

There's another moment of silence, then BOY opens his mouth as if to say something else.

GIRL
(accidentally cutting him off)
We're here.

BOY
(looking up at the storefront,
confused)
My favorite bookstore?

GIRL
(watching his confusion)
It's where we met. (softly, sadly)

BOY
Oh. I must have forgotten.

GIRL
Yeah. You must have.

A beat

BOY
Do you want to go in.

GIRL
That's why we're here, isn't it.

BOY smiles and goes through the door, dropping it behind him so that GIRL has to catch it to get through.

INT. OF BOOKSTORE

BOY is at the register, talking softly to the young woman working it. She giggles at something he says. GIRL drifts to a section of poetry, but continues to watch them. BOY leans on the counter and CASHIER giggles again.

CASHIER

No, I haven't read it

BOY

(talking louder now)

Really? Not even for school?

CASHIER

They let us pick our own books mostly

BOY

(groaning)

But Catcher is a classic. Holden
Caufield is one of the most complex
characters I have ever read.

CASHIER

(batting her eyes)

I'll check it out sometime.

GIRL walks up and sets a book on the counter. CASHIER is visibly upset.

GIRL

I'd like to buy this.

CASHIER

We were talking. And there's a line.

BOY

(still flirting. He puts his hand
on CASHIER's)

Be nice, Livvy. This is my... This is
Tess.

TESS

Nice to meet you.

LIVVY

It's eleven dollars.

TESS
 (paying with a strained smile)
 Thanks

BOY leans on the counter again and makes like he's going to start speaking again. LIVVY leans in. TESS is still right there and makes a disgusted face before backing up.

TESS
 Are you ready to go?

BOY
 (looking at her distractedly)
 Hmm?

TESS
 We have a lot to do today. We can't stay in one place too long or we won't get to everything.

BOY
 Yeah. Yeah of course.
 (turning back to Livvy)
 Check out that book.

LIVVY
 I will.

Boy turns to leave.

LIVVY
 Oh! Do you have an instagram?

BOY
 (turning back with a smile)
 Yeah. It's-

TESS looks disgusted and leaves the shop as he gives his info to LIVVY.

EXT. BOOKSTORE

TESS is bouncing in place, shivering. BOY walks out, looking pleased.

BOY
 You ready?

TESS walks away from him as he asks her.

BOY

Tess? Tess what's wrong?

TESS

(pissed)

You were trying to hold my hand on our way to the store and now you're chatting up some kid in our bookstore?

BOY

(catching up to her and also
pissed)

Oh, it's our bookstore, is it?

TESS

It always was. You knew that. We met there and then you took me again for our anniversary-

BOY

(not listening and
talking over her)

And I knew that you knew what was going on with the hand thing. I was making an effort!

TESS

An 'effort' to not be an asshole isn't the same as not being an asshole. I'm not going to congratulate you for something you should be doing automatically!

BOY

Oh so now I'm the bad guy?

TESS

(speeding up and under her breath)

You've always been the bad guy.

BOY

What was that? Where was this attitude this morning when you were eating the breakfast I made you? You loved that shit. Just admit it.

TESS

You made that meal for yourself and just let me share it. And I was trying to be polite.

BOY

Alright fine. Whatever. It's not worth it.

(takes a moment of silence)

But for the record I wasn't flirting with her. We were just talking.

TESS throws her hands up and walks even faster.

EXT. PARK BENCH - EARLY EVENING

TESS and BOY are sitting at a bench, on opposite sides with space between them. They are both eating ice cream. BOY has vanilla in a cup, TESS has chocolate in a sprinkle cone, with all the works.

TESS finishes up her ice cream. She wipes her face with a napkin and rubs her now-clean hands on her thighs.

BOY

So... Are we still on for dinner tonight?

TESS

Um...

(pulling out her phone and opening to instagram)

Actually, I just got a text from my mom. She asked me to call my grandparents tonight, so I'm not sure that I can. Maybe another night?

BOY

(looking at the phone in her hands with a sad expression)

Yeah. I guess.

(beat)

Well, if that ends earlier-

TESS

It won't.

BOY looks crestfallen, even though he was the one upset a few minutes earlier. Tess looks at him, smug for a moment before her face falls a bit.

TESS

(crumpling her napkins in her hand)

I just... I haven't talked to them in a while, so it'll probably be a bit. But next time. I promise.

TESS begins looking off into the distance. BOY takes a final bite of his ice cream, then looks at her for a moment. He grabs her crumpled napkins, still watching her. When she

doesn't flinch, he stands and walks off to find a trashcan. TESS wipes at her face with shaking hands as soon as he's gone, but her hands are back in her lap and she's in the same position as before by the time BOY sits back down. They both sadly sigh in unison.

EXT. TESS'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

TESS and BOY walk up to the apartment in silence. They're wearing almost the same thing, but TESS is wearing BOY's jacket and BOY's shirt is slightly different. TESS runs up the steps so she's above him. BOY follows so that he's just one beneath her.

TESS

Well, I guess that this is goodnight,
then.

BOY looks at her, then glances at her lips, then back at her. She nods slightly and he leans in and kisses her once, quick and soft. He leans back and looks at her.

TESS

(slightly out of breath)
Do you want to come in? F-for drinks
or... something?

BOY

(nods)
I'd like that

TESS nods once then continues to her door, where she opens it and holds it open for BOY to go through. He does, smiling. TESS waits a moment before following him, a slight smile on her face while she bites her lip. She shuts the door behind them.

EXT. UPPER EAST SIDE STREET

TESS and BOY are walking hand-in-hand down the same streets as before. BOY spins TESS, who starts laughing as he watches, grinning.

INT. BOOKSHOP

An older man works the register as BOY and TESS check out. TESS leans her head on BOY's shoulder as he buys her Catcher in the Rye.

EXT. PARK BENCH

BOY is sitting in the same spot as before, but TESS is laying across the bench, her head in his lap. They're both laughing. BOY points at something and TESS turns away to look. BOY watches her with a soft smile on his face. She turns back with a grin and they both start to laugh again.

EXT. TESS'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

TESS and BOY are back in their original outfits, with BOY wearing his jacket again. TESS is standing on the top step again, BOY is two down. They're staring at each other but not looking, eyes distant

TESS

(rocking on her heels)

Well, I guess that this is goodnight,
then.

BOY

(putting his hands in his pocket)

I guess it is.

TESS

I'll see you later?

BOY

Sure.

They look at each other for another second before BOY releases a breath and turns away, heading down the street. TESS opens the door to her apartment and holds it, watching him as he walks through the twilight. As he leaves the light of a streetlight, TESS sighs sadly and goes into her apartment.