

The Dating Game: Bet On It!

By : Rose Deller

Camilla is so jealous of her twin brother Ash with the his reputation at school as being a "ladies man". He gets all the dates and she doesn't. One night Camilla makes a bet with Ash to see who can have the most successful relationship with someone for more than a week! It's going to be easy for Ash, but what's going to happen to Camilla?

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Chapter 1: The Dating Game: Bet On It! - Chapter 1

Introduction

The most annoying thing about me and my brother is that we may look similar, yet Ash is oh so different to me. In fact - I don't see why people compare me to him; I'm nothing like him!

I have to admit he's known around school as a "ladies man" - blame Dad for that one! It's quite embarrassing actually; I get random girls coming up to me going "Can you get me a date with your brother? Can you get me a date with your brother?" I just smile awkwardly and walk away - that's when they take it as a no.

The worst is that my best friend, Fliss literally worships him! She always whispers to me when we're walking down the hall, "Your brother looks hot today!" You can't get more embarrassing than that! But Fliss is my best friend, so even though it hurts me dearly how she can crush on someone like my brother - I learn to live with it!

Ash is acting more like a girl everyday though. He's continuously getting told off by Dad about his expensive phone bills (talking to a large number of girls on the phone answers that one,) buying new clothes from shops like Top Man or Hugo Boss (Why?!) and spending over three hours every morning in front of a mirror!

Me? Well I wouldn't say that I'm becoming more like a boy - just a sadder, lonlier...nope that sums it - I'm a loser! But hey, I have my best friend Fliss to keep me on my feet.

I have to hand it to my brother, I think people at school expect me to be as good at getting dates as him. But I'm not. I would say that I'm half as good looking as girls think he is. So what is it that he has that I don't? Charm? A sense of humour? He's no Prince Charming, that's for sure!

I've never had a boyfriend - even when I see boys around school I kinda freak out a little cos they're so tall and intimidating, no matter how handsome some of them may be. My brother's an exception - I've been used to him for sixteen long years of my life!

* * *

Friday evening, a rather dark, starry, cold evening where the clouds are low and everytime someone breathes it looks like they're exhaling cigarette smoke when they aren't.

I'm in my room on my bed reading a magazine waiting for Fliss to turn up, when I hear clattering from the bathroom next door.

Ash.

I roll my eyes, get up off the bed and approach the bathroom.

"Ash?"

I open the door to find Ash drizzling hairspray into his hair. The second can! The first one was lying on the tiled floor.

"What are you doing with my hairspray?" I ask him as I picked up the can which was on the floor.

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Whilst concentrating in the mirror flicking spikes up, he replies "Fixing my hair,"

I interrupt him, "I can see that," I say. "Why?"

He stops flicking and turns to me. "Got a date with Monica tonight." he says, a smile appearing from the corner of his mouth.

"Oh!" I reply mock-interested.

He knocks me on the arm lightly, like it's a joke. "Shut up!"

"Make me!"

"Just cos I get dates and you can't!"

"I can get dates!" I cry.

I follow him out of the bathroom and down the stairs into the hallway. Ash checks his tie in the mirror by the front door. When he was satisfied that he looked dashing, he unlock the door and opens it. Fliss arrived a few minutes later.

"Name one guy you've dated." My brother demands.

Fliss comes in and looks at me bewildered. I say nothing.

"Yeah, yeah, you can get dates - if you were a turtle!"

I look at him confused. "Are you calling me slow and boring?"

"Exactly." my brother looks pleased.

"I am not slow and boring!"

I look at Fliss to back me up but she just stares with her mouth open.

"I'll tell you what - why don't we have a bet?"

My eyes widen. "Go on." I say sounding interested.

"A bet to see who can last the longest with someone."

"O...K..."

"Why not see who can have the most dates in a week?" Fliss suggests.

"Because I know that my sister has never had a relationship before so this bet will prove if she can get ONE guy first." Ash explains. Cold!

"I'm up for that," I say.

"Rules; you can't date someone you know, which includes friends. Sorry, Fliss." my brother says smiling.

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"It has to be someone you don't know, you have to get to know them before going in for the whole...kissing...yeah," I added in.

"You can date someone from school providing no-one finds out that it's a bet." Ash chirps in. "So that means, whoever we date can't know we're having a bet."

I feel strong, determined, ready.

"It has to last a whole week, if it lasts for less than that then you've lost. If you're still together for more than a week then we'll keep going until one of us breaks up."

"Final rule; you lose if the date breaks up with you - you can't break up with them, sound fair?" I ask.

"Yep."

My brother is ready to make his exit for his date. He hooks a hand in my direction. "Deal. Bet's on starting tomorrow."

He shake hands. Then he's gone.

I close the door behind him and join Fliss on the sofa.

"He's so gonna win, you know." she says.

"Thanks for the support, best friend!" I say jokingly.

"I'm sorry, I know you'll do great."

Fliss is gorgeous, and I really mean that. I'm surprised that she is single! She has this lush honeycomb coloured loose curly hair which goes to her waist, a sun-kissed golden tan and bouncy brown eyes. She looks great in her white skinny jeans and denim jacket.

"Maybe you could help me?" I ask.

"What do you mean?"

"There's no way I'm going to win against my brother - with his rep and all!"

"You can't date my brother - he has a fiance!"

I laughed. "As much as I would want to - I don't want to date your brother. Besides, Ash never said anything about getting friends to help, he just said we can't date friends!"

Fliss' eyes widened. "Ah, I see where we're going with this."

So that's how this starts - The Dating Game - I'm so ready!

Chapter 1

"I'm home and with lots of shopping!" my mum sing-calls as she made her dance-y entrance into the house.

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I love my mum! She's not embarrassing like some mums can be, she's like a big sister to me - she's only thirty! I find it flattering how some people think we are actually sisters! I'd love my mum to be my sister - but it's a shame that I have Ash instead...

I went into the hallway to help mum with the shopping because she looked like she was struggling even though it was two fully loaded shopping bags!

"Your father tells me you and Ash have made a bet." said my mother plonking one of the shopping bags on the kitchen counter.

"Yeah we have." I reply putting the other shopping bag on the counter.

Mum jumps up onto the counter swinging her legs all dilly-dally.

"Care to explain?"

"Do I need to?" I ask sighing.

"Well no offence, honey, but with your brother bringing God knows however many girls home each week, there's a higher chance that he'd win!"

I wanted to slap her with the banana which I noticed in one of the shopping bags. Why is everyone so determined that I can't get dates?

"So you know anyway?" I said sounding annoyed.

Mum shrugs. "Yeah, your father isn't very good at keeping secrets."

I laughed. "Who told him about the bet, then?"

"Guilty." said a squeak coming from the kitchen door. I turned around to see Fliss.

"Hey, honey!" Mum greeted to Fliss.

"Hi, Cara! Cam, are you ready to go?"

I walk towards Fliss and I hear Mum jump off the counter.

"Ooh, where are you going?" Mum asks sounding excited.

"To the beach," I say.

"To do some Boy-Scoping." Fliss finishes.

"Ah. Don't forget to put sun stuff on!"

Fliss and I were walking down the hallway towards the front door.

"We won't!" I call.

"Have fun!" Mum calls back.

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"We will, bye!"

"Bye, honey!"

* * *

The beach is a beautiful place to visit in the afternoon. If we're lucky, there's not that many people around, so it should be easier for the Boy-Scoping. To our surprise, there were quite a few boys from our school playing volley-ball by the sea.

"Let's go over there." Fliss said pointing towards the volley-ball game.

I looked at her. "Why?"

"Shirtless boys - volley-ball - athleticism - what more do you want?"

I laughed. "Yeah, but they're probably from the school volley-ball team, I don't want that - that's so cliché."

"Fine, I understand that, but I love watching boys compete - it's so thrilling!" Fliss giggled.

Since we had changed into our bikinis before approaching the beach, as we got closer to the volley-ball game, we received a few wolf-whistles and a few "Hey, babe" from boys in our year which I recognised, just didn't know their names. To be honest I didn't want to!

Fliss and I sat down on our towels, relaxing in the sun with its heat gently calming me.

I gazed at the volley-ball players - I was right; all from the school volley-ball team. I knew every single one and they were all friends with Ash!

"Hey, Camilla!" a voice called to me from the direction of the volley-ball game.

I looked up. "Yeah?" I asked not knowing who I was talking to because of the sun blocking my view.

"Where's your brother for support?" he asked.

"I dunno, he wasn't at home."

"Shame, he's missing a good game."

I laughed. I knew who it was now. "OK, Anton, I'll tell him what a great game he missed."

Anton is really fit, not good-looking fit, well he is, but he is really body-builder fit, but not quite to that extent. He's really strong and plays volley-ball really powerfully, he's also a good friend of mine as well as Ash. Since my surname is Sparks, he nicknamed me Sparkie! Anton has short bear brown hair and a strong, masculine face like Superman.

"HEADS UP!" I heard a male voice shout. I looked to where the voice was coming from and a frisbee was spinning in my direction, it missed me and landed on my towel. A guy came running to retrieve it. He was tall, quite muscle-y with sandy blonde hair and clover green eyes. He, like most guys on the beach had no shirt on. He smiled at me and maybe Fliss too when he picked up the frisbee. He showed off his muscle-y power when we darted the frisbee back to where ever he came from which made me laugh. The guy turned

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around again and smiled revealing his pearly whites.

"Hey." he said.

"Hey." I replied trying to sound casual.

Then he ran off, sand flicking about behind him.

Fliss looked like she was about to scream with excitement. "That guy is sooo good-looking!" she squealed.

"THANK-YOU!" the guy called. How he could hear us was beyond me.

It made the two of us laugh either way.

"Maybe you should ask him out?" Fliss said raising her eye-brows.

"I dunno, I don't even know his name."

"Well now's a time to find out!"

"Do you want some ice-cream? He looks like he might be near the Beach Hut." I suggested.

"OK."

We got up, brushed the sand off our towels and headed for the Beach Hut.

Chapter 2: The Dating Game: Bet On It! Chapter 2

Chapter 2

When Fliss and I entered the Beach Hut, we sat down at a table away from the sunlight. The Beach Hut had this Hawaiian theme to it - straw roof, bamboo walls, lotus wall-paper, waitresses in hula skirts and flower necklaces.

I was glancing at the laminated menu on the table when Fliss said, "Look, Cammie, it's Frisbee Guy!"

I turned around and saw Frisbee Guy entering the Beach Hut with his friends.

"I'm outta here!" I decided quickly. I got out of my seat and headed for the loos. I was walking maybe two steps until I stopped staring at a six-pack, water smooth stomach. I looked up and saw Frisbee Guy. I wasn't that much shorter than him, but he looked taller from when I was sitting down.

"Hey." he said sounding happy. Obviously indicating that he recognises me!

"Excuse me." I reply quietly and I brushed past him into the loos.

When I got out I saw Fliss and Frisbee Guy sat at my table talking quietly to each other. Fliss had the back of her head in my direction, Frisbee Guy was smiling away. It looked like he was laughing!

I walked back towards my table with a smile on my face - making a good impression should help!

"Hey, I'm back sorry!" I said sliding in next to Fliss.

"Hey, I was just talking with Kai," she widened her eyes when she said Kai. "Kai, this is my friend Camilla, Cam, Cammie, whatever!"

"Camilla." Kai said smoothly as though my name were some interesting dessert.

"Hi, Kai." Ha, that rhymes! No, this is not the time for humiliating stupidity!

"Fliss was just telling me about your brother," Kai began. Oh boy. "I've heard of him, apparently he's a ladies man, at least that's what I've heard through the grapevine."

"That's my brother alright!"

"Don't you get bored of it?" Kai was looking a little upset.

"Get bored of what?"

"Having so many girls - why can't he just stick to one?"

"He doesn't want to lose his reputation." I tell him.

Kai shrugs his shoulders. "Yeah well, one day his reputation is gonna get the better of him!"

I completely agree.

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What was nice was that Kai let me and Fliss hang out with him and his friends. What was funny was that one of his friends thought that he had "scored with two girls", we just looked at each other and laughed. I wouldn't consider him a friend yet, I don't know him that well. I guess it was fun chatting with him.

*

When Fliss and I were walking back to my house, it was getting dark. We were walking down the pavement barefoot in shorts and bikini tops, the concrete burning the soles of my feet. Fliss hadn't spoken in a while. I turned to her and she reached into her short pocket and got out a scrunched up piece of paper which she handed to me.

"What's this?" I asked her.

"Open it." she replied.

I did what I was told and opened the paper. What was written was a blobby etching of the name Kai and some numbers.

"Is this his number?" I asked.

Fliss nodded in self-satisfactory.

"YOU GOT ME HIS NUMBER?!"

"Why, are you mad?"

"NO!"

"So you're happy?"

I squeezed her tightly and let go before I choked her.

"Thank-you, Fliss!" she sang in a funny tone.

I stared at her smiling. "Yes, thank-you, Fliss. What should I do, should I call him?"

"Not now obviously, we just left!"

Duh, stating the obvious much? "Well, I don't know if he likes me, I barely know him." I whined.

"He seems to have taken some interest otherwise he wouldn't have given it to me!"

"But what if he meant to give it you - for you?"

"Stop worrying about it and take this moment to feel happy that you have a guy and we don't know about Ash!"

"Yeah, I guess you're right."

We approached my house and let ourselves in. I switched on the hallway light, put my bag and towel to the side and stopped still.

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"Do you hear that?"

Fliss came up beside me. "What?"

"Silence."

I darted up the stairs with Fliss hurrying behind. I opened my bedroom door to see a shape forming underneath my quilt.

"Why are the lights off?" Fliss asked.

She turned them on and we both gasped at the two heads on my bed.

"Ash, what are you doing?!" I cried.

"Oh, God, you're home!" Ash replied.

"That's a nice response." said Fliss.

"What's going on?" the girl Ash was with asked sitting up from the bed. "Who are these girls?"

"My sister and her best friend." Ash explained zipping out of bed and stumbling to put his jeans back on.

"Are you Monica?" I asked as sweetly as I could.

She nodded. Monica was quite pretty, she was pale and slim with auburn hair and freckles. She didn't look our age, but then again, she could be.

"Go home." I advised trying not to sound like it was a demand.

"Camilla!" Ash snapped.

"What? You're in my room!"

Monica crept out of bed and picked up her shorts, she put them on slowly followed by her top and cardigan. She looked quite scared when she left the room.

"I'll call you, babe!" Ash called once Monica had left. "What did you do that for, Cam?"

"What were you doing in my room?"

Ash tried not to laugh. "Something you don't wanna know." he replied.

I growled and pushed him out of my room.

"How's the bet going?" he asked. I slammed the door in his face with no response.

Chapter 3: The Dating Game: Bet On It! Chapter 3

Chapter 3

Walking through the school corridor on Monday mornings is like trying to survive a rainy storm.

Squeezing past the pool of people is torture enough. Gripping tightly on Fliss' bag strap, we plunge ourselves through the buzz of loud conversation - trying to get to the other side. Every person I see has zombified faces worn with tiredness.

Fliss had shoved on ahead making me let go of her bag, but I found a gap amongst the many people and forced myself towards the empty corridor. When I felt like I was free from the crowd, I saw Fliss was waiting for me, so I jumped to give myself a boost.

Unfortunately I lost my balance and found myself saying hello to the floor!

"Blimey! Cammie are you OK?" Fliss cried bending down and reaching for my arm.

She tried to pull me up but she failed. I remained on the floor and a dark shadow started to approach me.

"Have a nice trip, Sparkie?" I heard Anton say. I could tell he found this amusing.

"F-off!" I retorted.

Feeling like I could loose myself in thought whilst lying on the cold laminate floor, a generous hand came from nowhere and offered to help me up. The hand was strong and gentle, carefully peeling me off from the ground.

"Thank-you." I sighed. I looked to see who had lifted me up, it was clear it wasn't Fliss or Anton. I stared at the guy who was stood beside Anton.

"Kai?" I was bewildered with shock.

"You're welcome." he said showing that charming smile of his, (which made me fill my stomach with so many butterflies that I would have been sick!)

"Cam, we'd better get to class." Fliss advised grabbing my arm and steering me towards the stairway.

I must have felt a bit dizzy when I said, "Yeah, OK." cos I wasn't making eye-contact.

"See ya, Sparkie!" called Anton. He probably thinks I'm drunk...

Whilst we were sitting in class, I got so bored to the extend that I couldn't be bothered to take notes, so I started playing with my hair and gazing out the window glancing at the eye-straining green field. The Year 7's had P.E first - too bad for them!

Everything which our teacher was saying felt like someone had pressed the slow button on a TV remote - he, himself looked so bored that he could have falled asleep standing up. It's no wonder that I'm doing badly in this subject. It doesn't help that he puts me off by his attire; he's near-elderly age in his brown trousers, white shirt and brown sleeveless cardigan. He had so many lines above his slightly sweaty forehead that I was bored

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enough to count them! One, two, three, four, five, six lines. His horn-rimmed glass looked like they were about to fall off his nose. I hope they did, that way he could bend down to pick them up and not see me chuck a note to Fliss!

The relief I felt when the bell rang for next lesson made me feel so happy for having Catering next.

I got my ingredience out of my locker on the way.

"Alright guys, today we are making beef casserole. The method is on the table and I'll be around if anyone needs me, OK?" our teacher, Miss Bird instructed.

I don't really know why I dislike Catering. Maybe it's because I'm in a hot room for an hour and there's no getting out until the hour is up. I don't blame the teacher at all - Miss Bird is awesome! She's Australian with wavy brown hair and peachy skin and she's super nice.

On my table there was me, Anton, (who didn't want to do Catering anyway, but he got stuck with it because they stopped running a subject which he wanted to do) two girls who I know but I'm not sure if I'm their friend called Annabeth and Remy and to my surprise - Kai as well!

In Catering there's always a competition to see which table produces the best dish. We're joint second at the moment with thanks to Annabeth.

"So you're the new guy, huh?" I asked Kai as I got the chopping board out for the carrots. Annabeth was hurrying around the station cautiously trying to get everything done, with Anton close to her so she could tell him what to do. Remy was admiring her purple nails in the corner doing nothing.

"Yeah I am." Kai replied.

He and I started cutting the carrots. I was getting frustrated because the knife wasn't working. I think Kai could tell I was getting mad.

"Here," Kai stopped cutting his pile of carrots and stood behind me. He put his hands on top of where mine were, (which sent a sensational shiver down my spine) got in control and started cutting the carrots carefully and slowly.

"Like that - OK?" he said coolly. I nodded. His hands were warm and I felt his breath on my hair.

"Hey, pretty boy - get over here and help us with the steamer, would you?" Anton commanded.

At break time whilst I was hanging out with Fliss as per usual, Kai decided to join us and I found out some interesting things about him: he got transferred to our school after being a bad boy because he got himself thrown out of a pretty good boarding school. His favourite colour is green, his dad is American and his mum is Irish, he's an only child but wishes to have a baby sister called Maisie. How precise is this guy?

* * *

Whilst pacing around my room that night, worrying myself about the bet; day one has gone and I've got six days left - I need to get a move on! I wonder how Ash is doing?

With that in mind, I stopped pacing and took my mobile out of my pocket. I had to hunt in my bag to find the piece of paper which had Kai's number on it. I had to tip it upside down and empty the contents onto my bed

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in order to find it.

When I found it, I dialled the numbers into my phone and held it to my ear.

One ring, two rings - what shall I say?

Three rings - quick, think!

"Hello?"

I blanked and hung up.

I took a deep breath after nearly screaming and rung again. He didn't pick up until the fourth ring.

"Hello?" he said again.

"Hi, Kai, it's me - Camilla." I said sounding like I had burst after holding my breath.

"Hey, Camilla. How did you get my number?"

I knew he'd ask that! "Fliss gave it to me." I replied.

He chuckled. "Ah! Not to be rude, but why have you rung me?" His voice was really crackly from the signal.

"I just wanted to say hi and thank-you for letting me hang out with you and your friends - I had a good time on Saturday." This is good - I feel relaxed, I can do this! Girl Power!

"I'm glad to hear it. Listen I'm a little busy right now but I'll--"

I interrupted him. "Do you wanna go out for pizza or something tomorrow?"

"With you?"

"Yeah, why not?"

"Sounds great."

"Really? Cool, so I'll meet you at that restaurant in the town centre, you know? At seven?"

Kai chuckled again. I could sense him smiling. "It's a date." he said.

Fireworks were going off in the back of my mind and the butterflies in my stomach were filling up by the dozen.

"OK, see you, bye!" I slid the phone slide down and collapsed on my bed with a sigh.

I have a date with Kai!

I kept repeting that sentence over and over in my head until I believed it.

Chapter 4: The Dating Game: Bet On It! Chapter 4

Chapter 4

"You seem happy today." Fliss commented as we were walking to school the following morning.

"I am happy." I replied.

Fliss could see something was up - I could see it in her eyes. "Why?"

"I have a date with Kai tonight." I sang.

Fliss gasped and her mouth opened as wide as a goldfish. "Shut up!"

"No."

"No way!"

"Way!"

Fliss started giggling about. "Oh my gosh, I'm so excited!"

I laughed. "You have to help me choose something to wear."

She looked at me with a dead serious expression.

"You haven't got a choice," she said with her hand on her hip. "I'm GOING to help you look FAB no matter what!"

I hugged her. "Yay, thank-you Fliss!"

We walked on for a few minutes.

"Should I call Marina?" asked Fliss.

Marina is our other best friend. She's the one who gives us advice about boys and dating - simply because she's the only one of us who has had and has got a boyfriend. She likes to think of herself as a diva, but she really isn't. Marina has beautiful fair blonde hair and glistening sky blue eyes which makes her simply fabulous!

"If you want." I said.

Ten minutes later as our school building started to emerge before our eyes, I hear Fliss say-

"Isn't that that Monica girl - over on the bench?"

I glanced over at the bench and saw a yellow dressed girl hunched over with her face in her lap.

"She looks like she's crying." I gasp. Fliss and I rushed over to comfort her. "What's wrong, Monica?"

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She remained with her face in her lap. "Your arse of a brother!" she snapped.

At least we agree on something.

"Why, what happened?" Fliss asked.

"He's cheating on me!"

I sat beside her on the bench. She didn't shoo me or Fliss away, so I gathered she didn't mind us being here.

"With who?" I asked gently.

She looked up at me; lines where the tears fell were marked on her face and her mascara had turned watery.

"Bryony Jenkins, I think."

Neither of us said anything; Bryony Jenkins is quite boastful about the boys she dates, so we just keep our mouths shut and try not to offend her because she can be pretty scary when she's angry!

"He even asked out Remy James - but everyone knows she's going out with that dude from the volley-ball team." Monica continued. Her vague answer made me question her more.

"Not Anton, surely?"

Monica's body language perked up a bit. "Yeah - that's his name - Anton."

Hmmm, interesting to know...

Every time I saw Kai, whether it was in class, at break or lunch - he would always flash me that smile of his in a way as if to say "See you tonight". Monica was right about Ash cheating on her for Bryony. I wonder how she would react if she finds out he's using her for a bet? Anyway, Bryony isn't the sort of girl he would date in the first place!

* * *

At quarter past six that evening, Fliss and Marina were round my house bombarding my wardrobe trying to help me choose something to wear for the date.

"It's your first date and you're going out for pizza?" Marina sounded disappointed.

"Yeah." I replied scouting around to see what had been flown onto my bed.

"You need something casual yet slightly sexy, don't you think?" Fliss suggested.

Marina nodded and uttered in reply. "Absolutely - you want it to be romantic, so how about this?" she held up a dark purple silky dress with thin straps.

"A bit dull, isn't it?" I asked.

"Well you don't want to look like you're trying too hard, do you? Trust me - I've been there and done it and it did not end pretty!"

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"Purple dress it is then!" I said taking it from her.

"How about your denim jacket? That will go with your dress." Fliss recommended, chucking it to me.

Once I was dressed, my outfit consisted of the strappy purple dress, dark denim jacket, strappy black heels and a black purse bag. In my purse bag I had my phone, keys, purse, lipstick and tissues.

i thought my mum would cry with joy when I came down the stairs. She took a photo of me, Marina and Fliss and then another of me on my own.

"Lovely." she cried. Mum believes that pictures create memories and so she has a ton of folders of photos on her laptop and I have many printed photos on my cork board in my room.

Mum gave me about a million hugs before she let me leave. "Have fun!" she said.

When I got there, I thought I was late because Kai was waiting at a table near the bar.

"Hi, am I late?" I greeted sitting opposite him.

"No - I was early." he smiled.

"So, what looks good?" I asked trying not to appear too awkward.

"Haven't bothered to look at the menu, I thought we'd chat first."

I laughed. "OK - chatting's good."

*

The evening went on quite casually with a comforting atmosphere. We appeared to have enjoyed each other's company. We laughed about things and spoke about things. By nine o'clock when it was rather dark, Kai offered to walk home with me - I couldn't say no.

It was rather windy and quite cold. Kai could see I was shivering, so without my asking, he took off his jacket and put it around my shoulders. I thanked him with a smile. I felt so tingly inside, that I couldn't believe what was going on.

Maybe he likes me? How could he decide that after the first date?

I was just about to head inside after saying our goodbyes when he suddenly grabbed my hand.

"Wait,"

I turned around staring into his clover green eyes.

"Same time tomorrow? There's a good film on at the cinema we could watch - if you want?"

I smiled at him warmly. "Sounds great."

"Good night."

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I watched him go down the road with his hands in his pockets. I went inside when I saw he had gone.

Chapter 5: The Dating Game: Bet On It! Chapter 5

Chapter 5

On Wednesday morning, Kai had texted me asking me to meet him outside the school gates. As per usual, Fliss walked to school with me. I stopped just as we were about to head in.

"Aren't you coming?" she asked.

I shook my head. "You go on ahead, I'm waiting for Kai."

She raised her eyebrows and smiled. "Ooh, OK." she said teasingly.

By twenty past eight, I saw a green hoodied guy with a plain expression on his face come towards me. As he got closer, the plainness broke into a smile.

"Hey," he greeted casually.

"Hi, how are you?"

He pouted his lips, thinking for an answer - I think he was checking out my outfit; purple hoodie with denim shorts - nothing fancy. "Yeah, great thanks, and you?"

"Good."

He nodded in reponce. "Shall we head in?" he asked.

I nodded. "Sure."

Kai angled his arm around my shoulder so we kept quite close together.

As we got inside, the atmosphere in the main corridor was tense. There were lots of groups huddled together whispering about gossip and laughing quietly. Occasional eyes looking at us then looking away. I tried walking past the crowd without taking any notice with what was being said, but I couldn't help but over-hear and on-going conversation.

"Is it true that Camilla Sparks and Kai Ellis are dating?"

"Obviously - look, he's got his arm around her and everything - they're definatly a couple."

"I think it's cute - he's so protective of her."

"I just wish her brother wasn't dating that Bryony girl - she's such a snob!"

"You got that right!"

When I realised they had changed the subject, I found myself at the end of the corridor where the stairs were millimeters in front of me. I turned to Kai.

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"See you in Catering." he said happily. Then he hugged me, which was nice, but kind of awkward. I heard people gasp but that might have just been in my head!

As I walked into my English class, it was like I was the talk of the school. My classmates - girls mostly - came rushing towards me once I had taken my seat asking if the "rumour" about Kai and I dating was true. I was honest and said not really, we'd only had one date. I felt stupid the minute I said it because I know how fast rumours spread and I don't want things to get complicated.

* * *

"Kai hasn't stopped staring at you all day." Fliss pointed out as we were sat at lunch. I tried not to blush.

I looked over at the table Kai was sat on and he smiled giving me a friendly wave. Anton, (who was sat opposite him) gave me a silly wave to mock him. It was rather funny because Remy slapped Anton on the arm as though she were jealous of him waving at me, (but we're just friends) and the reaction, his expression he showed on his face was priceless!

*

Kai walked home with Fliss and I that afternoon. When she left to go to her house next door to mine, she mouthed to me 'he loves you' and made a heart with her hands. I shook my head and smiled at her thinking she was joking and headed into my house with Kai.

"Nice house." said Kai pouting his lips in interest. He made his way to the sofa and slouched down.

"Thanks. Do you want a drink or something?" I asked trying to be chaperone-like.

"Sure. Thanks."

Just as I was about to head into the kitchen, my mum called. I noticed her from the stairs so she didn't need to shout. If she was trying to play Hide And Seek, boy was she failing.

"Yeah?"

"Who's the boy?" she asked in a twittery way.

Typical - I was hoping for a different question. This should be interesting... "Why?"

"I'm just asking, is he one of Ash's friends?"

"No..."

"Then who is he?"

"My...Boyfriend?" My mother squealed with delight. "Shut up." I snapped through gritted teeth.

She rushed down the stairs with open arms. I watched her hug Kai who looked a bit surprised, but he seemed like he didn't mind the fact that my mum was hugging him.

"Kai, this is my mum, Cara." I introduced once she had released him.

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"Hi, honey." Mum replied. "Is my daughter being a good girlfriend to you?"

"Mum!"

"I'm just asking - I don't get many men in the house apart from your father and your brother. Let me speak with the boy, please?"

I stuttered for an argument.

"It's fine." said Kai acting all cool in front of my mum.

"OK, if she does anything inappropriate let me know - I'll be in the kitchen." I instructed.

I watched Mum fawn over Kai with batted eyelashes - oh dear! When I thought my mother could be anything BUT embarrassing - well I guess I've proved myself wrong, when it comes to one of her two teenaged children bringing dates home, she's so embarrassing that I wish I could hide away in a hole and stay there. I don't know how Ash can cope!

"You mum seems...Sweet." Kai told me that evening trying not to laugh.

I knocked him lightly on the arm. "Shut up, that was so embarrassing."

"Don't worry about it - my mum does the same. So does this mean we are going out now?"

Butterflies...so many butterflies in my stomach from just one sentence!

I gulped. "Yeah, I guess so."

He smiled triumphantly. I thought he was going to lean in to kiss me, so I quickly put my fingers on his lips to stop him.

"What are you doing?" he muffled. Oops - big mistake!

Then something in my body gave me a kick and I suddenly changed my mind. "Kissing you." I answered. Nervously, I bit my lip and tip-toed up. I removed my fingers and pressed my lips to his. He relaxed and kissed me back. I had meant for it to be a quick peck on the lips, but for some wonderful reason, it lasted longer than that.

My first real kiss.

Kai approached me by my locker the next day. He touched my hand lightly - I didn't realise he was there until he did so and I whipped around. He was close to me. He was shuffling about - something was on his mind.

"Hey," I greeted calmly, feeling relaxed that he was present. "What's up?"

"I need to talk to you." he replied quietly.

That made me feel suddenly concerned. "What's going on, are you OK?"

He got even closer to me, maybe too close. I felt his breath on my cheeks.

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"Are you busy tonight?"

"I don't think so, why?"

"Do you wanna go out?" he smiled.

I felt relaxed again. "What were you thinking?"

He inclined his head in thought. "The weather's great," he said. "How about a walk along the beach?"

"Sounds great!"

He kissed me on the forehead. "I'll pick you up."

* * *

Nearly sunset, the sky enriched with colours like peach, pink, orange and blue. The palm trees were like silhouettes and Kai and I were the only ones here. We had the whole beach to ourselves. Our barefeet was pressed into the sand and Kai had his arm around me like he sometimes does. I quite like it - just me and him.

He suddenly let go and I must have walked on ahead. Before reaching into panic mode, Kai surprised me by tickling my sides. I chased after him, the two of us laughing. Breezy wind cooling us from the sunset heat. When I caught him, he hugged me and wrapped his arms around my waist and wouldn't let go. I was screaming and laughing and he fell over from my struggle and we both collapsed onto the sand in fits of laughter.

This was a side to Kai which I had never seen before. Maybe he's releasing his bad-boy self?

"Ah, that was fun!" I gasped after we had calmed down. We were still lying in the sand. My head was on his chest. Comfy. He sat up and I went up with him - not bothering to move.

"You OK?" he asked resting his chin on my head.

"Yeah, fine."

"Good." he kissed the top of my head.

"You hungry?"

"Starving."

"Close you eyes."

"Oh, God, why?"

Kai chuckled and placed his hands over my eyes. "You'll see." he said.

We both got up and he directed me around the beach.

"Where are we going?"

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I sensed him smiling. "No peaking."

After five minutes of blackness and feeling the softness of Kai's gentle finger tips on my eyes - we stopped.

"OK, open your eyes!" Kai dropped his hands and I opened my eyes.

In front of me was a private deck surrounded by palm trees with pretty, soothing lights, a table for two - complete with candle light and our own waiter.

"Oh, wow!" I was speechless.

Kai opened a seat and asked me to sit down.

"Just a walk along the beach?" I asked as he sat down opposite me.

He laughed. "I thought it would be nice if I surprised you." he was smiling.

He must really like me!

Chapter 6: The Dating Game: Bet On It! Chapter 6

Chapter 6

It turns out that Ash and Bryony were still together by the weekend - just like Kai and I. Looks like we've got to last another week then, huh? Eat my dust, Ash - you're going down!

"He must really like you." Ash said to me on Sunday night.

I blanked him. "What's that supposed to mean?"

"It means that I still think there's no way any guy would last with you for more than a week!"

"Oh yeah, it seems to working just fine! Afraid you're gonna loose?"

He scoffed and left my room - that's what I thought.

Monday morning - boring History lesson with Mr I-Think-I-Might-Die-Of-Bordem! I actually thought I was going to fall asleep - his droning voice was just too irritating to listen to.

I started staring out through the glass showing the corridor and other classrooms. I could have sworn I saw Kai stood outside waiting for me. What was he doing?

He pointed at me and gestered for me to 'come here'. I put my finger up and mouthed 'one sec.' I turned away and raised my hand.

"Sir, please can I go to the loo?" I asked. Im not sure what he said, he mumbled his answer, so I left anyway.

"Yeah?" I asked Kai as soon as I got out.

He said nothing, smiled, took my hand and hauled me gently down the corridor.

"Whoa, where are we going?" he didn't respond.

We rushed down stairs and stopped outside an open, abandoned supply closet.

"In there!"

Kai pushed me inside and came in after me, turned the light on and shut the door.

"Won't we get caught?" I asked.

"Not whilst we're in here."

I looked at him. "what's wrong, is something up?"

It didn't take him long to think of an answer. "You are driving me crazy!" I felt slightly taken aback, he wasn't angry, at least I thought he wasn't.

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"Is that...good?" I asked not knowing what to say, feeling quite nervous from the heat inside the closet and the fact that the cramped space made us quite close together.

"I can't sleep without thinking about you," he began. "There's just something about you that ticks,"

"Yeah?"

"Cam, I think I love you." Yet again, five words sets the butterflies in my stomach off!

Before I responded he positioned me against the wall and placed his hands on my waist. I looked at him, his clover eyes were twinkling like mad. His face got closer and closer to mine. I opened my mouth to speak but nothing came out. Kai made me forget when he put his lips to mine. He seemed to enjoy it - I don't know what goes through a guy's mind when he's kissing his girlfriend like this - but I didn't want him to stop. Maybe I love him too? When he started kissing my neck, I ran my fingers through his hair like my brain was on auto-pilot.

"No...Wait...We shouldn't--" I said in between kisses.

He stopped and his eyes were blazing with happiness. "Don't you trust me?"

I nearly laughed. "Of course, I just don't trust the fact that we're alone in a supply closet - during school - where we could get caught any minute."

Kai looked at me, he stopped smiling and looked a bit guilty. "Yeah, you're right," he said. "We should wait. I'm sorry, I don't know what I was thinking."

"It's fine." I replied smiling trying to reassure him that he's done nothing wrong. "I'll see you tonight?"

Kai nodded and we both left the closet.

* * *

Kai was coming over tonight. In the text he asked if I could make sure my family were ready for his arrival. Mum was quite excited that there may be someone other than Kai coming over.

Ash wasn't bothered about seeing Kai. As soon as his name was mentioned he rushed off to meet Bryony. Dad was being cool, he told me about having a 'manly heart-to-heart' with Kai - whatever that means!

When the doorbell went I told my mum for the fifth time not to be embarrassing, she saluted me. I opened the door to find Kai smiling warmly at me. He had a delicate looking woman with him, who had her arm linked around Kai's. She seemed happy, but her dark shadowed rings under her eyes made it seem like she was upset or tired. Even though the weather was warm, she was wearing a long-sleeved cardigan and jeans. Her hair was blonde, like Kai's but much lighter and fairer.

I smiled politely at her.

"Hi, Camilla. This is my mum, Jill."

"Hi, Mrs Ellis...Jill, pleased to meet you, come in." I went to shake her hand, but Jill held my hand and patted my palm with her free hand, then let go.

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I stepped away from the door so they could come in. Jill looked a bit absent minded - staring at her new surroundings.

"Mum, Dad, as you know this is my boyfriend Kai and he's here with his Mum, Jill. Jill, meet my mum Cara and my dad Adrian."

After a round of introductions and greetings, I headed into the kitchen to make drinks. Kai came in to help me.

"Your mum is very sweet," I said getting cups down and placing them on the counter.

"Thank-you, I'm glad you think so because I was a bit anxious about bringing her." Kai replied leaning against the fridge.

"Why? She's lovely."

Kai came towards me. "She suffers from short term memory loss, so she'll occasionally forget who and where she is."

I felt my heart sink. "I'm so sorry to hear that!"

"It's fine, I've been telling her about you and she was keen to meet you."

"What about your dad, does he help take care of her?" I asked.

"Yeah, occasionally, most of the time it's the neighbours. I don't see my dad much."

"Now I feel bad!"

"It's fine, honestly, you asked - I answered. You don't need to feel bad."

I lowered my head.

"Hey, I want you to be happy, OK?" Kai reassured holding the sides of my face. "Cos if you're happy, that makes me feel happy." He lifted my head up so I was looking at him.

"OK."

Then he gave me a peck on the lips and we both went into the lounge to serve the drinks and have a good evening.

Chapter 7: The Dating Game: Bet On It! Chapter 7

NOTE TO READERS: I HAVE EDITED THE ENDING OF THIS CHAPTER, JUST TO LET YOU KNOW - IT'S NOT A MAYJOR CHANGE! ENJOY READING! :)

Chapter 7

Tuesday morning, Fliss and I were in our I.C.T class e-mailing each other because we had both finished the work we had to do and our teacher let us do whatever we wanted.

TO: camilla.sparks

SUBJECT: Kai

FROM: felicity.harvy

Hey, how r things going with u & Kai? :) x

TO: felicity.harvy

SUBJECT: RE - Kai

FROM: camilla.sparks

Good thanks! :) Why do u ask? x

TO: camilla.sparks

SUBJECT: RE - Kai

FROM: felicity.harvy

U seem 2 B spending a lot of time with him :/

TO: felicity.harvy

SUBJECT: RE - Kai

FROM: camilla.sparks

He's my bf :)

TO: camilla.sparks

SUBJECT: RE - Kai

FROM: felicity.harvy

Yeah but he's not really ur bf cos of that made u made with Ash.

The Dating Game: Bet On It!

TO: felicity.harvy

SUBJECT: RE - Kai

FROM: camilla.sparks

I'm thinking about calling off the bet anyway.

TO: camilla.sparks

SUBJECT: RE - Kai

FROM: felicity.harvy

:O Why?!

TO: felicity.harvy

SUBJECT: RE - Kai

FROM: camilla.sparks

I think I love him!!!!!! :D

Fliss didn't reply for a while. Maybe after five minutes or so.

TO: camilla.sparks

SUBJECT: RE - Kai

FROM: felicity.harvy

I knew this would happen! I didn't think the bet would B a good idea, but I guess I was happy for you @ 1st. I still am, sort of. I'm just feeling a bit left out! U, Marina, Ash and even Anton have bf/gf's - wat about me? :(

TO: felicity.harvy

SUBJECT: RE - Kai

FROM: camilla.sparks

I'm sorry! :(I didn't think you felt that way - Ur not jealous R U?

TO: camilla.sparks

SUBJECT: RE - Kai

FROM: felicity.harvy

Yeah - I sort of am. I just don't want a guy ruining our friendship!

The Dating Game: Bet On It!

I didn't get a chance to reply because the bell went and Fliss walked out the classroom without me.

What was strange was that I never saw much of Kai today. Fliss was keeping to herself by hanging out with Anton instead of me - which was fine. I just don't get why she needs to avoid me. I spent all day on my own, which was good because I got to do my homework in the library and get some peace and quiet.

I caught Kai walking out of school, so I called after him. He stopped and turned around. His fists were clenched and he looked like he was in a hurry to be somewhere.

"Do you have a minute?" I asked.

He sighed. "Not really but go on."

"Are you OK? I've not seen much of you all day."

"Sometimes it's good for us to hang out with others."

I blanked him. "What do you mean?"

Kai walked out of the school so fast that I had to run to catch up.

"Kai!"

"Look, I like you and everything, but I thought you were different. As it turns out, you're worse than your brother."

I felt a lump form in my throat. I gulped and watched him walk away.

After school, I headed straight home and went up to my room. What have I done? Why did I agree to this? I love Kai, I really love him! My first ever boyfriend and I blew it over a stupid bet just to prove my brother wrong. I should have thought of the consequences - I didn't know he was going to find out!

I don't know what to do with myself now - he probably hates me and would want to break up with me, which means Ash would have won the bet and he would most likely rub it in my face for weeks. I don't even want do this stupid bet anymore. I've hurt a guy who cares a lot to me.

I should leave him for a few days and see what happens.

Just then I heard a knock from my bedroom door and my mum came in.

"Hey, honey. Are you OK?" she asked coming in and sitting on the edge of the bed with a mug in her hands.

"Not really. Just having boy troubles." I replied.

"Anything I can help with?"

"No thanks, I can sort this out myself."

"OK, baby. Do you want dinner?"

"I'm not hungry just yet. I think I'll go for a walk."

The Dating Game: Bet On It!

* * *

The next few days of school were quite stressful. Fliss wasn't speaking to me or answering any e-mails. Kai was ignoring me too but I expected that. It made me feel like crying because I wanted to be with him so badly. I wanted to hang out with him. I wanted him to put his arm around me like he does and I wanted him to kiss me, but I guess we can't. At lunchtime I sat on my own and tried so hard not to cry in front of everyone because that might hurt Kai even more! It didn't help that Ash was boasting that he'd won the bet when in actual fact he hasn't because Kai hasn't broken up with me - he's just hurt because he found out about the bet.

I could tell that being alone and not having me to hang out with was getting to Fliss. She apologised to me when she walked off without me with her on Friday morning. On previous days we had walked together in silence.

On Friday evening, I built up the guts to confront Fliss. I headed next door to her house and she answered.

"Hi." she greeted with a sigh.

"Hey, can we talk?" Fliss nodded. "Walk with me." She followed me out of her porch and down the road towards the beach. "You know when you were going out with Spencer?" I began.

"That was ages ago but carry on." Fliss replied.

"Well whenever I came over, you were always on the phone to him -which I thought was quite cute and during school you'd talk about him and you'd tell me about your dates with him."

"That's cos we're best friends!"

"Exactly - even though I felt slightly jealous that you had a boyfriend at the time and I didn't, I was still very happy for you. Now it has happened to me, and you seem to be feeling the same as what I felt when you were going out with Spencer. So why the need to avoid me?"

Fliss bit her lip and didn't speak for a while. "Yeah, you're right!" she said eventually. "Cam, I'm so sorry! Can you forgive me? I never thought about that at all!"

I smiled. "It's fine, I forgive you."

"So, even though your dating Kai because of a bet - you still really like him, don't you?"

"I really really really like him!"

Fliss laughed and we hugged. This made me feel better to have my best friend back.

"It's a shame how he hates me now because he found out somehow."

"Yeah, that is a shame. Why don't you talk to him tomorrow? Tell him how you really feel. I did that with Spence - look where we are now - we're good friends!"

"That's a good idea, I should do that! Thank-you Fliss!"

*

The Dating Game: Bet On It!

On Monday morning I waited by Kai's locker. When he noticed I was there, he turned around and headed off in the direction he came from.

"Kai!" I called and ran up to him.

I grabbed him by the arm but he shook me off and carried on walking. I sighed and followed him, having to jog because he's so fast.

"Kai!" I shouted. He gave me no response.

I caught up and grabbed him with both hands and started hitting him. "Will.You.Listen.To.Me?!" I said with each hit.

"OK, OK, what?" he replied.

"I've been stupid--" I started.

"Clearly." Kai sighed.

"Let me finish!" He rolled his eyes. "Look, I know the bet wasn't the best of ideas and I'm not gonna make any excuses for it, but I think that you should know - bet or no bet - but the feelings I have for you - they're all real."

Kai studied me, "And you expect me to believe that?" he said.

I saw red. "No, I don't expect you to believe that, but I expect you to at least listen! I have put up with enough nonsense from my brother to last me a life-time. I will not put up with it from you, no matter how much I love you..."

Kai grabbed me then pressed his lips against mine. The suddenness of the surprise attack caught me off guard, but I managed to cover it up by closing my eyes and kissing him back.

Chapter 8: The Dating Game: Bet On It! Chapter 8

Chapter 8

As far as Ash is concerned, the bet is still on after a nearly-second week.

Kai, Fliss and I decided to hang at the beach on Saturday morning. Kai and I had something planned for Fliss. Back when we met Kai he told me that one of his friends 'fancies' Fliss, so today we thought it would be a good idea to get the two together - just to see what happens.

"Kai's been gone for a long time - aren't you worried?" Fliss asked me. We were both sat on a picnic blanket we'd brought with us.

"Nah," I replied. "he should be back in a minute."

Just then, Kai approached us with a casual looking guy with him. He was nearly as tall as Kai and had mousy brown hair which was wet from being in the sea. He had dark blue eyes and was wearing nothing but his red swimming trunks.

"Hey, girls, sorry I took so long - I bumped into a friend of mine - this is Jake." Kai introduced.

Fliss smiled at Jake "Hi," she greeted sweetly. "Hey, I recognise you from somewhere!"

Kai came and sat down beside me and Jake was looking at Fliss with confusion.

"I don't know," he said slowly.

"Well why don't you sit down and chat for a bit?" Kai suggested.

"Yeah, that's a great idea, Kai, let's leave them to chat!"

We got up to leave but Fliss grabbed me by the ankle causing me to nearly fly over. "What are you doing?" she hissed.

"We're just gonna take a walk and leave you and Jake to chat." I explained.

I'm pretty sure Fliss is gonna hate me after this, because she hates blind dates, but she ought to thank me later.

Kai and I had walked far away from our picnic area and had found a small lagoon to hide away in. Kai was acting quieter than normal and I wanted to know why.

"Happy Anniversay!" he said when he realised we were alone.

That sent a shiver down my spine.

"What?" I gasped.

"Two weeks today was when we first got together."

"Please don't tell me you got me something?" I asked.

The Dating Game: Bet On It!

Kai laughed and stared at his feet then raised his head up again. He reached into his pocket and got out a small velvet box. He handed it to me and I opened it. Inside was a silver singular diamond necklace with a key charm on it. On the back was an engraving which said "I shalt love thee for all eternity."

"But I haven't got you anything - I feel so guilty!" I cried.

Kai smiled. "Don't - there's no need - it's cool."

Clumsily he span me around. I felt the touch of his fingertips on my neck as he moved my hair out of the way when he put the necklace on.

"There," he said when he finished, I felt his breath on the back of my neck. "Now all you have to do is breathe to feel my heart against yours."

I turned back round again and could see the tenderness in his eyes. After a moment which felt like years, he held my face and planted a gently kiss on my forehead. I reached up, suddenly feeling unsure of myself and touched his cheek. I wasn't controlling my actions anymore. It was as if my body was on auto-pilot, doing the one thing I wanted to do most. I kissed him sweetly there and then breathing in the familiar scent of his musky odor...

I suddenly heard someone creeping in and Kai and I jumped apart.

It was Fliss. "Oops," she said, then she giggled. "Am I interrupting something?" she asked.

* * *

Fliss and I love drama; especially our teacher Mr Robanelli. He said that he hates his surname so we call him Rob - which I think is quite cool.

He's a fairly new teacher and is known around our school as a legend. I remember my first lesson with him. The whole class were waiting in the auditorium for our teacher to arrive and ten minutes in to the lesson, Rob bursts in making a few girls scream and several others laugh because Rob was dressed like Zorro wearing a black mask, cape and hat. I could tell instantly that he had some musical theatre training of a sort because of the amount of confidence he had. Although my first impression of him was that he was rather weird.

"Hello children!" he bellowed as he made his dramatic entrance. "My name...Is Zorro!" everyone in the room just gave him the look as though he was the most bizzarest man they had ever seen.

He took all of his gear off revealing a young late-twenties man wearing jeans and a red and blue shirt with glasses propped on his nose.

"No, it's not actually Zorro, no my name is Alonzo Robanelli but you can call me Rob because I seriously hate my name."

One guy asked if Rob was Italian but he replied no.

Today in drama, Rob was teaching us about stereotypes and so we got to dress up for the lesson in all these weird costumes and things. We were each given a stereotype which we had to act out. I was given a hippie, and Fliss was a gothic Victorian lady. She kinda scared me because she brought in all this dark make-up which kind of made her look like a vampire.

The Dating Game: Bet On It!

*

That night, I was talking with Ash in his room until his phone rang.

"Oh, no - it's her!" he cried.

I shook my head and sighed. "Who?"

"B-B-B-Bryony!"

"And that's bad? She's your girlfriend!"

"Quick - answer it - tell her I'm not here!"

He practically threw the phone at me and he hid behind his pillow.

"Hi, Bryony. Yes it's Camilla...Ash? Well yeah, he's right here!"

I sighed and chucked the phone back - he can talk to his own girlfriend - I don't see why I had to do it!

"No..You...Hi, babe!"

I laughed to myself and watched him talk on the phone to Bryony. He didn't look very happy by the time he hung up.

"So?" I encouraged.

"I hate you." he replied solemnly.

At school the next day, there was a hum of excited conversation echoing around the corridor.

"What's going on?" Fliss whispered to me and we were walking through.

"Don't know."

We soon found out because we saw Bryony and she had her arm linked with Ash's. Everyone was commenting on Ash's clothes; He wore shiny black leather trousers (which do not suit him and I think he knows it) and a white t-shirt which said I Heart Bryony on it. What was she doing with him? When I saw him I burst out laughing - not meaning to obviously, I could tell my brother was hurt by this.

"I don't think he'll be able to cheat his way outta this one!" Fliss exclaimed. We both walked past Ash who was looking at me with utter humiliation.

Part of me want to go up and hug him, yet another part wanted me to walk on and let him be humiliated. Kai was right - Ash's rep will soon get the better of him - and I think that time has come!

Chapter 9: The Dating Game: Bet On It! Chapter 9

Chapter 9

I guess Ash deserves it after all, I mean with all the broken-hearted girls he's dated and dumped. This bet is just another one of those, I think. I guess I've proved him wrong by getting my first ever boyfriend! With that aside, Anton seems to be happy with Remy (it took me a while to figure they were dating - so sneaky too) Not really sure about Marina - I guess she's happy with her boyfriend. (Still don't know his name!) Monica has become great friends with Fliss and I after Ash cheated on her for Bryony. Why Bryony? Of all the helpless girls who wanted to date him he had to pick snobby, boastful Bryony! As for Fliss, well it's been two days and she and Jake have their first date planned. I've told her not to take things too quickly - because she's my best friend and I don't want her to get hurt. She's been in a relationship before, so she understood what I'd said. I'm happy that she's happy. We have both found guys who like us for who we are - not boys who just go for looks.

"So how was your date with Jake last night?" I asked Fliss at lunch the next day.

She looked at me all coy and innocent. "It was great," she said. "Jake's a real gentleman - don't many guys like that nowadays."

I leaned in, interested with what she had to say. "So, what happened?"

Fliss sighed. "Well, he took me out for this meal which I thought was great - he even payed for the whole thing! Then we went for a walk along the pier."

I smiled. "It sounds like you had a really nice time!"

We stopped chatting for a bit so we could eat our food. Then an idea struck in my head - well not an idea per say more like a sudden spark of rememberence.

"That reminds me," I began. "Are you still up for study group at the library after school? Lots of us are coming; me, Kai, Anton, Remy, Marina and Monica too."

Fliss looked at me apologetically. "Cam, I'm so sorry, I completely forgot about that! Does it have to be today? I'm meeting Jake after school at his school; we finish earlier than him."

I shook it off. "It's OK, maybe another day? What school is Jake at then?"

Fliss scrunched her face as though she smelt something bad. "North Point Comp." she said.

I felt my jaw drop. "That's on the other side of town!"

"I know..."

"How are you gonna get there?"

"My mum's gonna drop me off and then I'll either take the bus or train or whatever home."

I raised my forearms, letting myself go with her decision. "OK, have fun!"

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"Revision sucks!" Anton whined as we were in the study corner of the North Beach Community Library (big name I know!) "What's the point of revising for a stupid test anyway?"

Remy raised her head from her textbook, "So you can improve if you feel like you've done badly." she said.

Anton bit his lower lip. "Nah, I'm good. Study break, I think - who wants a donut?"

A buzz of 'hmmms' went around the circle and then a...

"Oh, God, how can you eat those things?! They're so full of fat and sugar and...bleugh!"

We all looked at Bryony in annoyance.

"Why did we invite you?" I asked pointing the question at Ash who was sat beside her.

"Yeah, why did we invite you?" Anton asked openly.

"I don't know - I'm not even friends with any of you. I'm only here cos Ash is here." Bryony snapped.

Remy scoffed. "Well, you could just leave?"

Hermione 'Remy' Gold is quite a head-strong girl. She's never afraid to speak her mind - she's awesome because she's loyal to her friends and she sticks up for them. Remy's style is rock-chicky slash Avril-Lavigne-like. She has dark chesnut coloured hair with hot red high-lights. She's probably a lot prettier without all the make-up she wears, but it makes her look cool either way; wearing dark-grey-that-looks-black eye-shadow with black eye-liner making a flick at the corner and pinky-red lip gloss. I love the clothes she wears too. She, like Fliss has a passion for clothes design and her fashion sense is quite unique to her. Right now she's wearing a white t-shirt with a black heart in the middle surrounded by lots of swirly written words which I can't quite read, grey denim shorts that have been deliberately ripped at the bottom and black high-top boots with dozens of laces!

The rest of us kept quiet and tried not to get involved with what was going on, because when Remy defends her friends - in can end up as a fight! Bryony looked a little hurt, but she covered it up with her superiour self. She bounced off the seat she was sat on and said, "Fine!" After that, she and her designer bag which was dangling on her forearm took two steps away from us, but she stopped and turned back around looking at Ash.

"Aren't you coming?" she asked to him.

Ash looked at us before saying, "But these are *my* friends, so I wanna stay."

Bryony looked like she was about to cry, but instead she stomped her foot on the ground so hard that it made her bag fall from her arm to her hand and she huffed off.

"Was it something I said?" Ash asked looking confused.

The rest of us laughed and Ash seriously looked like he didn't get what just happened.

"Wow," Kai said clapping his hands. "Well done, Ash - you're finally rid of her!" I laughed at that and so did Anton. I think Remy would have too but I think she's zoned out in her textbook.

"Is that what you guys were waiting for?"

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We all shouted yes and a librarian approached us and said if we weren't quiet then she'll ask us to leave.

"Jeez, guys, I didn't know you felt that way."

"Ash, do you even like her?" Marina requested. Spotlight on Ash...

"Well...To be honest, she can be a bit annoying."

"A bit?" I exclaimed.

Remmy bopped her head up. "That's *a bit* of an understatement, don't you think?"

Ash started fidgeting about and stuttering.

"Dude - she made you, I repeat - *made you* wear a flippin' 'I Heart Bryony' shirt!" Anton exclaimed.

"And she's around your arm 24/7." Remy added.

Ash raised his shoulders. "She likes me - I can't help it!"

"You didn't even want to speak with her on the phone the other day." I said firmly. "So surely you'd *want* to break up with her?"

Ash shook his head. "No way - the bet's still on until Kai breaks up with you or until Bryony breaks up with me!"

A couple of gasps went around the circle.

"You used me?!" Kai gasped sarcastically.

I laughed. "Oh, no! Whatever will I do? I'm such a horrible person!" I replied mock-upset.

Kai and I laughed and Anton and Remy were just looking completely confused.

"Is there something you're not telling us, Cam?" Anton asked.

Before I could reply, Bryony came clip-clopping in with tears rushing down her eyes. We were all suddenly silent and heard nothing but the blubbing and whimpering that she was making. She went up to Ash and slapped him across the cheek and left. I kind of gasped and laughed at the same time.

"Owch!" Anton cried.

Ash cleared his throat. "Yeah - was she listening the whole time?" he was rubbing his cheek with his hand.

"Who cares? You're a free man, dude!" Anton beamed.

The librarian chucked us out after that. It was a shame because we only managed to answer five out of the twenty odd questions from our homework assignment to help us revise for our test. Marina doesn't go to our school, but she came anyway to do her own homework. We all went our separate ways when the librarian shut the door in our faces.

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I walked over to Fliss' house to see if she was there with Jake. Mrs Harvey - Fliss' mum let me in and made me a drink.

"You're welcome to stay, but Fliss isn't here at the moment." she explained.

Mrs Harvey treats me like I'm her own daughter - probably because Fliss and I have known each other ever since we were four; we've been best friends ever since the first day Fliss and her family moved next door to me and ever since we went to the same primary school.

Mrs Harvey speaks with a Latina tongue. Her skin tone is exotic and golden. She has lush Latin-American shiny black waves of hair which goes to her waist. She always dresses so sophisticated. Today she's wearing light blue jeans and a black and white hibiscus patterned tunic top thing. I love the way she says Fliss or Felicity - involving every sound of every letter so precisely.

Every time I go round her house, we don't eat the boring every day food. We have tacos or vegetable curry and rice.

I was sat on a varnished oak bar stool waiting patiently. Mrs Harvey then passed me a glass containing her freshly made pineapple and mango smoothie.

"Felicity tells me you have a boyfriend, no?"

I smiled. "Kai."

"Kai," Mrs Harvey echoed taking a seat opposite me. "Good name, Kai - what's he like?"

I sighed. "Where do I start?"

Mrs Harvey laughed. "Too much to say?" I nodded in reply. "It's nice to know Felicity has a boyfriend. At least that's what I've heard. I want my little chica to be happy, no?"

I nodded my head slowly. "Yeah, I want her to be happy too."

Chapter 10: The Dating Game: Bet On It! Chapter 10 (Final Chapter!)

Chapter 10

A few years passed and mine and Ash's bet was forgotten about, like it was dream. I'm still happy I won - I proved my brother that I could do something which he couldn't!

I'd left school once I was finished with everything and got a job in the Mall as a cashier in a clothes shop called Fresh. It's not a very interesting job, but it pays the rent. Speaking of rent, I moved out of my house and moved into a flat with Kai - yes we are still very much together! So are Fliss and Jake and Anton and Remy. Marina dumped her boyfriend and jumped on a plane to go traveling. From the e-mails she's sent me, she's off to Las Vegas and then Australia. I asked her how she'd get the money for flights and stuff and she replied "by gambling". Duh - Vegas!

As for Ash, I think he learnt his lesson about being a 'Ladies Man'. That reputation came and went. He's currently still living with Mum and Dad in his own flat in the garage. Mum said if he doesn't get a job then she'll chuck him out! I don't blame her, but at least he's happy. He and Monica got back together and soon after Monica's twentieth birthday, she announced she was pregnant, so she's using her work money to pay for a flat to rent; as far as I know - they haven't moved yet.

*

I woke up Tuesday morning and saw Kai still fast asleep. He always looks his best when he's asleep, but who am I to judge? I left him and got ready for work, had a shower, had breakfast, got changed and drove off.

I've always disliked Tuesdays. We get large stock orders and lots of angry customers, but hey, I'm used to it. This was probably one of my worst Tuesdays ever, for the past couple of days I've been feeling really sick, really dizzy and really hungry. Today I feel like it has reached it's peak. I couldn't think of any knowledgeable reason as to why I'm feeling like I am.

When I got home that day, Kai had been out to Starbucks and had got me a mocha.

"Figured you'd want it after a stressful day at work." he explained.

"You shouldn't have!"

He smiled and placed it on the dining table. I had literally walked through the door, not having enough time to put my stuff down. When I noticed Kai swift towards me, I dropped my bags on the floor where I was stood. He slipped his hands onto my waist, supporting me so I wouldn't fall. He pulled me in closer, closed his eyes and kissed me.

"I have a surprise for you." he whispered, his voice humming in my ear.

Kai drove me to the beach, it was late and it had gotten dark. The sea water left a moonlit glow so we could easily see where we were going. The sand was no longer golden, but a dusty bronze colour. I heard nothing but the wishy-washy sound of the ocean waves going back and forth and the chirping of sea gulls calling to their families in their nests on the cliffs.

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Kai had taken me to the pretty cave lagoon again. Every since I was sixteen, Kai would always take me here for privacy. What I thought was a bit strange, was the fact that a guitar was there! It can't be mine - it's at home. Maybe someone left it there by accident? The lagoon is famous for romancers to serenade to their loved ones...Oh dear!

"Kai, what are we doing here?" I asked.

"I have something to show you," he said picking up the guitar. He began strumming so I sat down on a rock to listen.

He sang me a song which went like this;

I saw you standing there

With your gorgeous brown hair

And your big brown eyes.

I knew that by your stare

That there was something there

In your big brown eyes.

Oh, Girl of my dreams

Where have you been

Other than standing right in front of me?

I know who you are

You're my shining star

So stop standing in front of me...

And get over here!

Even though the way he sung was kinda rocky with his gentle and slightly rough voice - I would say that he sounded like a mix between Will Young and Justin Timberlake!

What struck me was that tears were falling down my face and I don't know why! Kai seemed to have noticed because he stopped instantly.

"Hey, what's wrong?" he asked softly.

I sniffed and smiled. "Nothing, I'm fine." I replied.

"Why are you crying? Was I *that* bad?"

I kind of laughed and cried at the same time. "No, it's great - I loved it."

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I whiped a tear from the corner of my eye and Kai put the guitar down and sat next to me on another rock. He was knocking his knees playfully against mine. It didn't hurt at all.

"Do you know why I love you?"

Wow, load on the big question much?

I opened my mouth to answer but Kai over-lapped me. "It's because before I met you, I had done some pretty stupid things, real stupid. Then I met you and you were so happy and cheeky and confident. You made me forget about the bad that I'd done and made me think about the good--"

"But you're not a bad person, Kai." I said accidently interupting.

"I've gone through some pretty tough times."

"Tell me," I said wonderingly.

"Well, having to look after my mum for starters. I'd got kicked out of boarding school because I got a girl, who was my current girlfriend at the time, pregnant. So she had to get sent home and she blamed me for ruining her education, which was fine - I deserved it. I was young and foolish."

"What was her name?" I asked staring at him in awe.

"Phoebe Moore."

"Do you hear from her at all?"

"Not really, I don't like talking about it."

"I'm sorry."

"Don't be."

There was a pause. I felt like there was something on my mind which I really needed to tell Kai, but I didn't know how to.

"I want us to be honest with each other, OK?" I began. Kai nodded and I contined. "You're my first ever boyfriend - ever. I'm not used to being in a relationship with someone, whereas you are and you know how to treat people. I love you and at this moment in time, I don't want to loose you by falling in love with someone else - I just don't want that."

Kai put his arm around me. "It's OK, I hear you."

I felt the tears fall again. Kai put his hand on my cheek and whiped a tear with his thumb.

*

Even though I hate Tuesdays, I love Wednesdays because these are my days off - whoohoo! I woke up pretty late feeling like poo and wondered into the kitchen.

"Hey," Kai greeted with his back towards me, concentrating on the pan on the gas. "Want pancakes?"

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I frowned. "Hmm...No, thanks, I don't feel very hungry." I replied even though I kind of felt starving.

"You sure? OK."

"I'm gonna take a walk, get some fresh air - I don't feel so well. I'll be back soon."

I threw on some jeans, tee and a jumper and headed out the door.

I walked down the high street and went past the pharmacy towards the doctors'. I went in and asked if anyone was free for a check up. Luckily, someone was, so I sat in the waiting room until I was called in.

The doctors' name tag had Sophie written on it. She was a petite, bubbly girl with cropped black hair.

"So, what seems to be the matter, Miss Sparks?"

I left the doctors' after half an hour of waiting and sitting down. As I was walking back to the flat, I felt my palms go sweaty.

"Kai, I need to talk to you," I said urgently once I'd entered the flat.

"Oh, you're back - I was beginning to worry." he said.

I sighed and took a deep breath.

Here I go.

"Kai...I'm pregnant!"

THE END!

The Dating Game: Bet On It!

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