

Title : How to Catch a Bad Boy (Chapter 3) - Harlequin Desire
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Total : 1720 words

Source Text	Translated Text
"Hello, I'm Lani Li."	"Hai, aku Lani Li."
"Mika Sorenson."	"Mika Sorenson."
Sensing that he'd already pushed his luck too far with Lani, Asher waited until the women were seated before he popped into Lani's office.	Merasa bahwa dirinya sudah menguji kesabaran Lani, Asher menunggu sampai dua wanita itu duduk sebelum menyelinap ke dalam kantor Lani.
"Can I get you anything?" he offered. "Water? Coffee? Soda?" He'd spied a small interior room with a copier, storage and a beverage cooler.	"Apa kau ingin minum sesuatu?" tanyanya menawarkan. "Air? Kopi? Soda?" Dia mengamati ruangan interior kecil yang berisi mesin fotokopi, lemari penyimpanan, dan pendingin minuman.
"Nothing for me." Mika gave him an appreciative smile. "Thank you."	"Aku tidak usah." Mika tersenyum pengertian. "Terima kasih."
"Ms. Li?" The way her eyes flashed, Asher could tell he'd gone too far.	"Nona Li?" Dari mata Lani yang berkilat, Asher tahu sikapnya sudah keterlaluan.
"I'm fine." Her teeth were firmly clenched as she added, "Thank you."	"Tidak." Giginya terkatup rapat saat menambahkan, "Terima kasih."
With a smirk Lani's client did not see, Asher ducked out of the room and headed straight into the empty workspace. Because the building was going for a sophisticated modern aesthetic with industrial vibes, glass walls divided this office from the larger one where Lani sat. Asher settled back in the office chair with his back to Lani, and strained to hear the conversation. The women spoke in subdued voices, making it impossible to discern more than a word here or there. Asher had resigned himself to the fact that he wasn't going to learn anything, and was about to head down to the café when a tall man wearing an expensive suit and a stormy expression strode into the office.	Dengan seringai yang tidak terlihat oleh klien Lani, Asher keluar dari ruangan dan langsung menuju ke ruang kerja yang kosong. Lantaran bangunan ini mengusung estetika modern yang canggih dengan nuansa industrial, dinding-dinding kaca menyekat ruangan ini dari ruangan yang lebih besar tempat Lani duduk. Asher duduk di kursi kantor dengan punggung menghadap Lani dan berusaha keras untuk mencuri dengar percakapan. Para wanita itu berbicara dengan suara pelan sehingga mustahil untuk menangkap lebih dari sepatah kata pun. Asher telah pasrah pada kenyataan bahwa dia tidak akan mendapatkan apa-apa dan hendak pergi ke kafe ketika seorang pria jangkung yang bersetelan jas mahal dengan raut wajah gusar melangkah memasuki kantor.
When the man's furious gaze locked on Mika Sorenson in Lani's office and his fingers curled into fists, Asher was on his feet and standing in the man's path before the guy had taken more than two steps.	Ketika tatapan murka pria itu tertuju ke Mika Sorenson di kantor Lani dan jemarinya mengepal, Asher sudah berdiri di hadapannya sebelum pria itu maju lebih dari dua langkah.

"Can I help you?" Asher demanded in a tone that said he had no intention of being the least bit cooperative.	"Ada yang bisa kubantu?" desak Asher dengan nada yang menyatakan dia tidak berniat bersikap ramah sedikit pun.
"That's my wife."	"Itu istriku."
"Okay."	"Baik."
Before Asher could say more, Sorenson's red face contorted in rage and he made as if to charge into Lani's office and take his bad temper out on both women. He set his hand on the man's shoulder, determined to get the guy out of there, but Sorenson was completely focused on his wife.	Sebelum Asher sempat berbicara lebih lanjut, wajah merah Sorenson berkerut karena berang dan dia seolah-olah hendak menerobos memasuki kantor Lani dan melampiaskan amarahnya kepada kedua wanita itu. Asher memegang bahu Sorenson, bertekad mengeluarkan pria itu dari sana, tapi dia benar-benar memusatkan perhatian ke istrinya.
"You stupid bitch," the man yelled, pushing his weight against Asher in an effort to power past him. "Who the hell do you think you are hiring a private investigator to spy on me?"	"Dasar jalang bodoh," teriak pria itu. Dia mendesak berat badannya melawan Asher agar bisa melewatinya. "Kau pikir siapa sih kau menyewa seorang penyidik swasta untuk memata-mataiku?"
The situation was deteriorating fast and Asher had to get the guy out of there. He caught the man's arm in a tight grip. "Let's go."	Situasi memburuk dengan cepat dan Asher harus mengeluarkan pria itu dari sana. Dia mencengkeram lengan pria itu erat-erat. "Ayo, pergi."
Although Asher and Sorenson were the same height, the other man lacked Asher's strength. But what Sorenson lacked in muscle, he made up for in outrage.	Meskipun tinggi badan mereka sama, Sorenson tidak sekuat Asher. Sorenson memang tidak berotot, tapi dia menebusnya dengan penuh kemarahan.
"Who the hell are you? Let go of me."	"Siapa sih kau? Lepaskan aku."
"You need to leave," Asher said.	"Kau harus pergi," kata Asher.
"The hell I do. I'm not going anywhere without my wife."	"Enak saja kau. Aku tak akan pergi tanpa istriku."
Asher didn't need to look over his shoulder to know that Mika Sorenson was afraid. And that Lani was not. Years of playing polo had given him the ability to widen his senses and track the ever-changing dynamic of a game where eight players, each riding a thousand-pound horse and swinging a three-foot mallet, all raced after a fist-sized ball. He knew Lani was going to get in the middle of this scuffle and that she might get hurt. Sorenson needed to go before that happened.	Asher tidak perlu melihat dari balik pundaknya untuk mengetahui bahwa Mika Sorenson takut. Dan bahwa Lani tidak takut. Bertahun-tahun bermain polo telah membekalinya kemampuan untuk memperluas indranya dan mengamati dinamika permainan yang selalu berubah antara delapan pemain yang berlomba mengejar bola seukuran kepalan tangan, masing-masing menunggang kuda berbobot 1.000 pon dan mengayunkan <i>mallet</i> sepanjang hampir semeter. Dia tahu Lani akan berada di tengah-tengah keributan ini dan mungkin akan terluka. Sorenson harus pergi sebelum hal itu terjadi.
"Call security," Asher advised Lani, his gaze never leaving the other man.	"Panggil petugas keamanan," ujar Asher kepada Lani tanpa mengalihkan tatapan dari Sorenson.
Sorenson didn't seem to hear. "Get out of my way."	Sorenson sepertinya tidak mendengar. "Minggir sialan."

<p>Keeping his tone mild, Asher responded, "I can't do that."</p>	<p>Sambil menjaga nadanya tetap tenang, Asher menjawab, "Aku tak mau minggir."</p>
<p>When the man's fist came toward his face, Asher leaned out of the way. Off balance from the wild swing, Sorenson wasn't at all ready when his opponent snagged his foot and used his own momentum to send him toppling to the floor. Asher winced when Sorenson's head bounced off the hardwood flooring. Convinced Sorenson wasn't about to jump up and go for round two, Asher glanced toward Lani.</p>	<p>Ketika tinju pria itu mengarah ke wajahnya, Asher menghindar. Ayunan liar itu membuat Sorenson kehilangan keseimbangan. Dia sama sekali tidak siap ketika pihak lawan menyambar kakinya dan menggunakan kesempatan itu untuk membuatnya tersungkur ke lantai. Asher meringis ketika kepala Sorenson memantul di lantai kayu yang keras. Setelah yakin Sorenson tidak akan bangkit dan menyerang untuk kedua kalinya, Asher melirik ke arah Lani.</p>
<p>Her eyes had gone wide as they bounced from him to the man on the ground. Already adrenaline surged through his veins from the altercation, but seeing the unbridled hunger in Lani's mink-brown gaze, his whole body went up in flames.</p>	<p>Lani membelalakkan mata saat tatapannya beralih dari Asher ke pria yang terkapar. Lonjakan adrenalin mengalir pembuluh darah Asher akibat pergulatan itu, tetapi ketika melihat nafsu liar yang tak terbendung dalam mata Lani yang berwarna coklat kemerahan, sejujur tubuh pria itu membara.</p>
<p>"Security," he rasped, wanting nothing more than to take her in his arms and claim the passion parting her soft lips. "You can thank me later." The declaration was both a warning and a promise. Unlike the previous night, there would be no chaste kiss on her forehead. He intended to accept her gratitude in spades.</p>	<p>"Petugas keamanan," serunya. Tak ada yang Asher inginkan selain mendekap Lani dan mendesak gairah yang terpancar dari bibir lembutnya. "Kau bisa berterima kasih nanti." Pernyataan itu adalah sebuah peringatan sekaligus janji. Tidak seperti malam sebelumnya, tak akan ada ciuman lembut di keningnya. Pria itu mengharapkan menerima tanda terima kasih yang melimpah ruah dari Lani.</p>
<p>In the end, with some sense knocked into him, Sorenson left on his own, escorted to the elevator by Asher. When he returned to Lani's office, a white-faced Mika Sorenson was making an appointment with a divorce attorney and Lani was arranging a safe place for her client to temporarily stay.</p>	<p>Pada akhirnya, dengan kesadaran yang muncul dalam dirinya, Sorenson pergi atas kemauan sendiri dengan Asher yang menggiringnya ke lift. Ketika pria itu kembali ke kantor Lani, Mika Sorenson yang pucat pasi sedang membuat janji dengan pengacara perceraian dan Lani sedang mengurus tempat tinggal sementara yang aman bagi kliennya.</p>
<p>Lani was standing at her office window, staring out at the storm blowing out of the west when Asher returned from walking Mika to her car in the parking garage. Lightning flashed and the building rumbled as thunder rolled over them. Asher crossed to stand beside her, noting that her tension was as charged as the atmosphere outside.</p>	<p>Lani sedang berdiri di jendela kantornya, menatap badai yang bertiup dari barat ketika Asher kembali dari mengantar Mika ke mobilnya di lahan parkir. Petir berkilat-kilat dan gedung bergetar saat guntur menggelegar di sekelilingnya. Asher mendekat untuk berdiri di samping, menyadari bahwa ketegangan wanita itu sama seperti suasana di luar.</p>
<p>"Thank you," she muttered, sounding not one bit convincing.</p>	<p>"Terima kasih." Gumaman Lani tidak terdengar meyakinkan sedikit pun.</p>
<p>"Oh, you're going to have to do better than that." She turned toward him, eyes fierce, arms crossed.</p>	<p>"Ayolah, kau harus melakukan yang lebih baik dari itu." Lani berbalik ke arahnya. Tatapannya tajam dan lengannya bersedekap.</p>

"Fine. Thank you very much."	"Baiklah. Terima kasih banyak."
Asher snaked his left arm around her waist and brought her up against him hard. "Better," he coaxed, his tone lifting on the latter syllable.	Asher melingkarkan lengan kiri di pinggang wanita itu dan menariknya mendekat dengan kasar. "Lebih baik," rayunya. Nadanya meninggi pada suku kata terakhir.
"I don't know what more you want."	"Aku tak tahu apa lagi yang kau inginkan."
"Oh, I think you do." Dragging his knuckles over her flushed cheek, he lowered his head until his lips hung a whisper above hers. "I want you to say it."	"Oh, kurasa kau tahu." Ketika buku-buku jarinya membelai pipi Lani yang memerah, Asher menunduk sampai bibirnya kian dekat dengan bibir Lani, lalu dia berbisik, "Aku ingin kau mengatakannya."
"Say what?" The mutinous line of her mouth wavered even as her muscles softened, bringing her pliant curves into sizzling contact with his hard planes.	"Mengatakan apa?" Garis mulutnya meronta gemetar saat ketegangannya mengendur, membuat lekuk tubuhnya yang lembut memanas saat bersentuhan dengan tubuh Asher yang keras.
"Say that you were glad I was here to take care of you and your client today. How having me around was a good thing."	"Katakanlah bahwa kau senang aku ada di sini untuk menjagamu dan klienmu hari ini. Bahwa keberadaanku di sini adalah hal yang bagus."
"I could've handled him just fine." She let loose a shocked gasp as he slid his palm up her spine, wrapped his fingers around her ponytail and gave it a sharp tug. "But I'm glad you were here so I didn't have to."	"Aku bisa saja menanganinya dengan baik." Lani terkesiap saat telapak tangan Asher menyusup ke tulang punggungnya, lalu melingkarkan jari di sekitar rambut berkucirnya dan menariknya tiba-tiba. "Namun, aku senang kau ada di sini jadi aku tak perlu melakukannya."
"Better."	"Lebih baik."
The uneven cadence of her breath matched his as he covered her mouth with his in a deep kiss meant to remind her how they'd once burned up the nights. Electricity danced down his spine as his stomach somersaulted. Rain battered the window beside them. And lightning flashed once more, this time behind his eyes as her tongue darted forward to tangle with his. Her sultry moan filled his ears while her warm skin scented the air with roses and jasmine. She lifted her fingertips to his face and ran them over his stubbly cheek. He loved when she touched him like this.	Tarikan napasnya yang tidak teratur menyamai tarikan napas Asher saat pria itu membungkam bibirnya dengan ciuman dalam yang bermaksud mengingatkannya tentang mereka yang pernah menghabiskan malam-malam panas. Sengatan listrik menjalar tulang punggung Asher bersamaan dengan perutnya yang bergejolak. Hujan mengguyur jendela di samping mereka. Dan petir kembali menyambar, kali ini di balik bola mata Asher saat lidah Lani mendesak untuk bersentuhan dengan lidahnya. Erangan Lani yang penuh gairah memenuhi telinga Asher ketika kulitnya yang hangat menguarkan harum mawar dan melati. Ujung jari Lani meraba wajah Asher dan membelai pipinya yang berjanggut tipis. Dia suka ketika Lani menyentuhnya seperti ini.
This made sense. Her lips. Kissing her. Feeling once again like some part of him was complete. Why did it only happen when she was in his arms? Everything inside him quieted, making room for this amazing explosion of fulfillment and joy.	Ini masuk akal. Bibirnya. Menciumnya. Sekali lagi, Asher merasakan seperti ada bagian dari dirinya yang utu. Mengapa hal itu hanya terjadi ketika dia berada dalam pelukan Lani? Semua yang ada di dalam diri pria itu menjadi tenang, memberi ruang

	<p>untuk sensasi kenikmatan dan kegembiraan yang luar biasa ini.</p>
<p>Lani angled her head, taking him deeper into her mouth, breathing him in as her fingers tunneled through his hair, nails digging into his scalp. Her lashes were a butterfly kiss against his skin as she pulled him closer, pressing her breasts into his chest and sliding her knee up his thigh as if by wrapping herself around him, they could meld and become one.</p>	<p>Lani memiringkan kepala, menarik Asher lebih dalam ke bibirnya. Dia menghirup pria itu sembari jemarinya menyusupi rambutnya, menancapkan kuku-kukunya ke kulit kepalanya. Bulu mata mereka bersentuhan saat Lani menariknya lebih dekat. Dia menekan payudaranya ke dada Asher dan menaikkan lututnya setinggi paha Asher seolah-olah dengan melingkarkan tubuhnya ke pria itu, mereka bisa melebur dan menyatu.</p>
<p>Asher lowered his hand to her hip and was seconds away from cupping her butt and lifting her off her feet when an annoying buzzing sound began. Lani noticed it too and rolled her head back, disengaging from the kiss.</p>	<p>Tangan Asher meluncur turun ke pinggul Lani dan hampir akan menangkap bokong wanita itu dan mengangkatnya ketika suara dengung yang mengganggu mulai terdengar. Lani menyadarinya juga dan menoleh ke belakang, melepaskan diri dari ciuman itu.</p>
<p>"Ignore it." Issuing the command, he fanned his fingers over her lower back to keep his iron-hard erection firmly pressed into her slowly rocking hips. "Stay just like this," he murmured, in awe of her power over him.</p>	<p>"Abaikan saja." Usai mengeluarkan perintah itu, jari Asher menari-nari di punggung bawah Lani untuk menjaga bukti gairahnya yang sekeras besi tetap menempel kuat ke pinggulnya yang perlahan-lahan bergoyang. "Tetaplah seperti ini," gumamnya, kagum akan kekuatannya atas dirinya.</p>
<p>"We shouldn't be..." She twisted free of him, her chest heaving as if she'd finished a mile-long sprint. Scrambling to where her phone was still buzzing madly on her desk, she raked a trembling hand over the tendrils that had escaped her neat ponytail. "Yes?"</p>	<p>"Seharusnya kita tidak...." Dia membebaskan diri dari pria itu. Dadanya naik turun seakan-akan telah menyelesaikan lari jarak pendek sejauh satu mil. Lani menggapai ponselnya yang masih berdengung dengan kencang di atas mejanya. Dia menyapukan tangannya yang gemetar ke rambut kusut yang terlepas dari kucir kuda yang rapi. "Ya?"</p>
<p>Asher leaned back against the cool glass window and shuddered while another boom of thunder rolled through the building. Or was that just the reverberation of his pounding heart? He couldn't catch his breath. The shock of that kiss. Lani's ardent response. How lust had transformed her into living flame... It was all so <i>exhilarating</i>. He'd forgotten how intoxicatingly blissful kissing her could be.</p>	<p>Asher bersandar pada jendela kaca yang dingin dan bergidik saat guntur menggelegar melewati gedung itu. Atau itu hanya gemuruh jantungnya yang bertalu-talu? Dia tidak bisa mengatur napasnya. Kejutan dari ciuman itu. Sambutan Lani yang penuh gairah. Betapa nafsu berahi telah mengubahnya menjadi api yang berkobar ... Semuanya begitu menggelora. Asher sudah lupa betapa nikmatnya mencium Lani.</p>
<p>He loved her complexities. Straightforward and practical in her role as an investigator and her pursuit of her career goals. Recklessly passionate when it came to her heart. She'd trusted him when she shouldn't have and doubted him when he'd been most honest with her. While she settled</p>	<p>Asher menyukai kerumitan wanita itu. Lugas sekaligus praktis dalam perannya sebagai penyidik dan mengejar tujuan kariernya. Sementara itu, bergairah bukan main ketika menyangkut urusan hatinya. Lani memercayainya ketika seharusnya tidak memercayainya dan meragukannya ketika pria</p>

<p>behind the desk and started typing on her keyboard, he let his gaze roam over her lips. She was gnawing on the lower one and he had to look away as sweat prickled his skin.</p>	<p>itu bersikap sangat jujur kepadanya. Sementara Lani duduk di belakang meja dan mulai mengetik di papan tik, Asher membiarkan pandangannya menjelajahi bibir wanita itu. Lani menggigit bibir bawah dan pria itu harus berpaling saat keringat membasahi kulitnya.</p>
<p>"Is everything okay?" he asked as she concluded her call.</p>	<p>"Apakah semuanya baik-baik saja?" tanyanya saat Lani mengakhiri panggilan.</p>
<p>She'd sat back, narrowed eyes glued to the computer screen. In the space of ten minutes, she'd cooled to focused professionalism. Meanwhile his defenses were down and his anticipation was sky-high.</p>	<p>Dia duduk bersandar. Matanya memicing dan terpaku pada layar komputer. Dalam waktu 10 menit, dia berubah dingin dan fokus ke profesionalisme. Sementara itu, pertahanan Asher menurun dan antisipasinya sangat tinggi.</p>
<p>"Everything's fine." She did a slow blink and seemed to return from whatever deep dive her brain had done. "Are you ready to go back to Royal?"</p>	<p>"Semuanya baik-baik saja." Dia mengerjapkan mata perlahan-lahan dan tampaknya tersadar dari lamunan mendalam otaknya. "Apa kau siap untuk pulang ke Royal?"</p>
<p>"I thought maybe while we're in Dallas we could have dinner." Somewhere romantic and far away from the accusing eyes in Royal so he could lavish his charm on her and see if he could soften her attitude toward him.</p>	<p>"Kupikir mungkin kita bisa makan malam selagi masih di Dallas." Di suatu tempat yang romantis dan jauh dari tatapan menuduh di Royal agar dia bisa melimpahkan pesonanya kepada Lani dan berharap barangkali dirinya bisa melunakkan sikap wanita itu terhadapnya.</p>
<p>She glanced at her phone. "We really need to get back. I already have dinner plans."</p>	<p>Dia melirik ponselnya. "Kita benar-benar harus pulang. Aku sudah punya rencana makan malam."</p>
<p>"Here in Dallas?" A spike of jealousy caused his voice to harden. Until this moment he hadn't considered that she might be involved with someone. But if she was, would she have kissed him like that?</p>	<p>"Di sini, di Dallas?" Luapan kecemburuan membuat nada suara Asher meninggi. Sampai saat ini, dia tidak menganggap bahwa Lani mungkin menjalin hubungan dengan seseorang. Namun, kalau memang iya, apakah wanita itu akan menciumnya seperti tadi?</p>
<p>"No," she said. "In Royal."</p>	<p>"Bukan," sahutnya. "Di Royal."</p>
<p>"Something having to do with the investigation?" With their passionate embrace sparking his baser instincts, Asher was feeling possessive and didn't come off nearly as nonchalant as he'd hoped.</p>	<p>"Sesuatu yang berkaitan dengan penyidikan?" Dengan pelukan penuh gairah mereka yang memicu hasrat mendasarnya, Asher merasa cemburu dan tidak bisa bersikap acuh tak acuh seperti yang dia harapkan.</p>
<p>"At the moment the investigation is my main focus."</p>	<p>"Fokus utamaku saat ini adalah penyidikan."</p>
<p>A non-answer. And from the look on her face, all she was planning to give.</p>	<p>Sebuah jawaban yang tidak menjawab. Dan dilihat dari raut wajahnya, hanya ciuman tadilah yang diberikan Lani.</p>