Before I Fell

by Alison Reid

He thinks she's everything he hates.

She knows he's everything she shouldn't want.

Marissa Turner has spent years perfecting the art of not caring.
Flirt. Laugh. Walk away. It's safer that way.
Because love? Love is something she lost once—and she's never risking her heart again.

Especially not on a man like James Calder.
Cold. Controlled. Brutally judgmental.
He's known her for years—and he's never once seen the real her.
To James, Marissa is reckless. Untouchable. Trouble.
To Marissa, James is the man who shattered something inside her with a single cruel accusation—and never truly made it right.

Now, trapped together under the same roof for two weeks, the tension between them ignites into something far more dangerous than either of them expected.

Because hate like this doesn't stay hate for long.

Not when the looks linger.

Not when the touches burn.

Not when one kiss changes everything.

But the past still stands between them—twisted by misunderstandings, pride, and wounds neither of them has healed.

And when desire turns into something deeper… they'll have to decide if they're willing to risk everything—before they fall.

Tropes:

💥 Enemies to Lovers

🏡 Forced Proximity

❤️ He Falls First

😲 Misjudged Heroine

🛡️ Protective Hero

🔥 Slow Burn

💚 Opposites Attract

Reader Guide:

🔥 Heat: ★★★☆☆ (Moderately Steamy) *Several open-door scenes with moderate detail*

💔 Angst: ★★★★☆ (High) *Heartbreak, separation, betrayal & strong emotional tension*

❤️ Emotion: ★★★★☆ *(Deep) Powerful emotional journey with heartfelt moments & significant character development*

📖 Dual POV

🌶️ Open-Door Romance

✔️ No Cheating

✨ Guaranteed HEA