



## Hard Limits

*Elle Aycart*

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**Hard Limits** Elle Aycart

**DO NOT READ before Jacked Up.**

**\*\*\*MAJOR SPOILERS\*\*\***

Nico Grabar, head of one of the most ruthless cartels in the world, is in the last stretch of a two-year nightmare. His agenda is full. He has a criminal organization to run. A cover to maintain. A promise to fulfill. Too bad he's bleeding to death in the middle of nowhere, about to meet his Maker on a deserted street. A fitting ending to a bleak existence, really.

A beautiful bride, dressed in a thrift-store wedding gown with raccoon eyes and a choke collar, and covered from head to military boots in blood, rescues him. It's the Grim Reaper, made over just for him. What an honor.

Seriously. Who finds a frigging drug lord in dire need of resuscitation while coming back from a bachelorette party during the wee hours? Paige, aka Goth waitress at Rositas and a magnet for psychopaths, of course.

Paige has already survived one major asshole, narrowly escaping with her life. The last she needs is to have to play Florence Nightingale to a dangerous kingpin. What if he dies on her?

Or worse—what if he doesn't?

## Hard Limits Details

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Author : Elle Aycart

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## **From Reader Review Hard Limits for online ebook**

### **Rebecca says**

I've been with the Bowen clan since the beginning of Elle Aycart's Bowen Boys' series, and these protective alpha males have my heart; there's not a better group of men to have in one's corner because taking care of those people who have come to mean everything to them is their number one priority and that includes Rosita's feisty waitress/bartender Paige, and even though she hides behind her goth exterior, shielding herself with tattoos, piercings, and Goth attire, the Bowens and their significant others consider her one of them and will do what they can to prove they have her back, even when they might not agree with her choices.

Nico Grabar understands Paige's need for her smoke and mirrors' appearance; he's been living behind secrets and lies for the past two years, and in order to complete his mission - the one that has turned him into a ruthless and imposing criminal - he needs to maintain his cover, which is a bit more difficult since his personal Goth Nightingale saved his life and sparked something in his heart that could cost him so much more than what he initially set out to accomplish when he gave into his baser self, becoming a powerful Drug Lord for the cartel.

Hard Limits is definitely a darker and more dangerous story than the other books in the series, which works well given the backgrounds and current situations Paige and Nico are dealing with and the fact that their romantic connection may cause more harm than good for themselves and those around them.

Elle Aycart packs an immense amount of suspense, drama, and steam in Nico and Paige's fast-paced and intense story. As Nico works to smash Paige's hard limits, Paige forces Nico to question his need to remain unattached and unaffected by anything other than his covert op. And, if the sexy energy that surrounds this dynamic duo is anything to go by, their need for one another will outweigh any risks they may take in order to be together.

4.5 Poison Apples (The Fairest of All Book Reviews)

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### **Elle Aycart says**

Hi!

Here you have the first chapter. Remember it's a rough, unedited version subject to change  
Enjoy!

<http://elleaycart.blogspot.com.es/>

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### **Polly says**

\*arc provided by author for honest review\*!

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## Elle says

### 4.5\* goth girl & escobar STARS!!

First, thanks to Lana from DGR who introduced me (indirectly) with Bowen Boys series and I'm quickly hooked. This series is super addictive with uniqueness in each other stories. Second, it surprised me to know Paige, the goth girl who work for Elle has her own book. Third, this is not a standalone. You must read the previous books before jump into this but it's totally worth it!

Paige wouldn't expect to see Nico again in a very strange way. After Elle's bachelorette party, she found him bleeding to death and quickly help without hesitation. He revealed himself that he's Nico Grabar; a head cartel and very dangerous man. But Paige still didn't budge after his confession and their 'relationship' turns into something else. Friends with benefits. No string attached. Whatever it is, Nico really interested with Paige.

I loved Paige! She's easily likable person without any drama. She's independent, snarky and witty. Paige is the cool-est woman I've ever known. Her piercings totally surprised me. The hard limits came from Paige because of her past and she isn't ready to share. Another surprise that I didn't expect, Paige came from preppy and polished family.

Nico isn't just an ordinary criminal. He has hidden agendas and didn't want to involve Paige. That's why they decide to make it casual. Her attitude totally match with Nico's domineering aura. He's easily swooned me especially with the dirty talks ;)

***“What? You didn’t think I would keep an eye on what’s mine?”***

***“What are you actually saying?” she asked, her nails digging into his shoulders.***

***He pinned her down with his stare, cock throbbing like a motherfucker deep inside her. “I’m talking about exclusivity. About you taking my cum every time I fuck you.”***

Again, I really enjoyed their chemistry. Their sex was incredible! Nico respect her limits but still coax her to let it go. To trust him. Paige was easily fall for him and she couldn't deny his attraction. I really enjoyed their cute and sexy banter every single time.

***“...Because you are unraveling me piece by piece, and I fucking hate it.”***

***“If you hate it so much, why are you here?” she asked, standing her ground.***

***“Because I can’t stay away. Because I can’t fucking breathe without you. Because nothing’s worth a damn if I don’t have you. Because I’ve fucking lost my mind. Enough reasons?”***

I still couldn't forget how is fun the nursing home. Disney world for old people, they say. Also other characters from previous books made appearance that make this book is more appealing. Of course, Nico and Paige really steal the show. I'm glad they're finally together in the end. Overall, the story was really engaging and didn't disappoint me. It flowes nicely without OTT drama. Very entertaining read. I couldn't wait for more Bowen members.

***“You’re wrong. I’m the vulnerable one here. You blocked me. You would have walked away***

*from me. I couldn't do that. I told you I love you. You didn't. You have me wrapped around your little finger. I'm fucking vulnerable, Goth girl."*

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**Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says**

**5 STARS**

*For years there was nothing in my life but darkness and thirst for revenge, whatever the personal cost. Nothing else mattered. Then you came waltzing into my bleak existence, with your quirks and your crazy hair and your lovely smiles, and you fucking blinded me. I should have let you go, but I couldn't. I just fucking couldn't, and now you are my priority. I will do whatever it takes to keep you safe."*

**WARNING** If you haven't yet read Jacked Up, (1) you're SERIOUSLY missing out and (2) do NOT read my review. Seriously. Take your curious little nose the other way and step away. Then run to Amazon to one click Jacked Up. You'll thank me. Trust me.

And if you HAVE read Jacked Up, then you've been just as antsy as I have to get your grabby little hands on Nico. This wasn't a character that Elle had originally planned on writing a book for, and man am I happy that she decided to, because the man totally stole both my heart and my ovaries even when I thought he was a baddie to beat all baddies.

*This shit was killing his soul. Whatever small part was still left, it was not going to survive this.*

In deep cover, infiltrating the worst of the worst, Nico is finally in a position to bring down the cartel he's dedicated his life to destroying. But Nico is no one's hero. The life he's led has left a permanent stain on his soul. A stain so dark, he doesn't think he'll ever be clean of it. He's not exactly surprised to find himself bleeding out on the street after an attempt on his life. What he doesn't expect is his savior...

*Her facade was so brazen, a deliberate act to distract everyone from her aching vulnerability. All smoke and mirrors.*

Paige is no wilting wallflower. But behind her tattoos and piercings are hidden scars of past mistakes she's trying to outrun. The one one her facade doesn't work on is the head of a ruthless cartel and the man she has an inexplicable connection to. When she finds him bleeding to death in his car, she knows she'll stop at nothing to help him. But are their scars too deep to heal and ultimately be their destruction?

*This is why I didn't want you here. Because you are unraveling me piece by piece, and I fucking hate it."*

*"If you hate it so much, why are you here?"*

*"Because I can't stay away. Because I can't fucking breathe without you. Because nothing's*

***worth a damn if I don't have you. Because I've fucking lost my mind."***

In just under 200 pages, this book packed so much depth and feeling. I wish I can say I was surprised, but I don't expect anything less from Elle Aycart. After not so patiently waiting for Nico and Paige's book, I can say the wait was worth it. Ever since they met in Jacked Up, you could feel a sizzle between them. That sizzle turned into scorching passion in this book. The novella is eloquently titled, because both are characters with their individual hard limits that get shattered at the hands of the other one. Man but I loved watching them both demolish those.

Nico is everything I thought he'd be and more. He's ruthless, deliciously dirty, protective and with a hidden vulnerability that you can't help but fall for. Paige was the perfect second half to him. She's not without her own demons, but she also doesn't shy away from them. She owns them and has a steel core of strength that you can't help but respect.

Hard Limits was an action packed ride that was equal parts spine tingling and toe curling. It was edge of your seat excitement with a romance that was just as deliciously sexy as it was emotional and satisfying. I loved every single page of it. We get a chance to catch up with all our past favorites, but Nico and Paige definitely steel the show. I adored seeing Nico's vulnerable side come through more and more almost as much as I loved seeing Paige truly come into her own. It was perfection. Pure perfection. I'm addicted to this series and I can't wait for more! I will never have enough Bowen Boys

*ARC courtesy of author in exchange for an honest review*

**Find me on:**

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## **Shayna says**

WOW! What a freaking ride! My heart is still pounding so hard! As a take few breaths, let me warn you that you should NOT read this review or read HARD LIMITS until you read JACKED UP! So if you haven't read JACKED UP yet, STOP what you're doing and GET ON IT! Alright, let's get to it, shall we?

***"...you are unraveling me piece by piece, and I fucking hate it."***

After finishing up JACKED UP, I was BEGGING for more and I was CRAVING Nico's story! This MAN! OMG! I can't EVEN right now! After learning that the author wasn't really planning on writing Nico's story, I was pleasantly surprised when I got my hands on this gem! This HOT and SEXY man stole my heart when he was a bad guy...in HARD LIMITS, he completely obliterated it and then somehow shoved it all back together and made me whole again.

***"If you hate it so much, why are you here?"***

***"Because I can't stay away. Because I can't fucking breathe without you. Because nothing's worth a damn if I don't have you. Because I've fucking lost my mind."***

Nico has had to deal with so much darkness, so when he is saved by a brilliant light in the form of a beautiful

goth girl, he isn't sure what do about it. He's not sure he CAN do anything about it. She saved his life, but he can't afford any complications, especially one that is so damn mesmerizing. He finds himself unable to stay away from his goth girl. He needs the light...he craves it with everything in him. He knows it's dangerous, but he will do anything and everything in his power to keep her safe.

OMG! Nico and Paige were ELECTRIC together! The pages will smolder when you crack open this action-packed and seductive romance. Strong characters, a suspenseful storyline, pages and pages of STEAMY HOT sex scenes...I couldn't have asked for a more captivating romantic suspense. In just under 200 pages, Elle Aycart had me HOOKED! Drama, angst, passion, and love...this baby HAD IT ALL! This series just keeps getting better and better! I'll never get enough. Keep em' coming Elle! Keep em' coming!

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## Jennifer says

"For years there was nothing in my life but darkness and thirst for revenge, whatever the personal cost. Nothing else mattered. Then you came waltzing into my bleak existence, with your quirks and you crazy hair and your lovely smiles, and you fucking blinded me. I should have let you go, but I couldn't. I just fucking couldn't, and now you are my priority. I will do whatever it takes to keep you safe. Because I love you."

And that readers, that is why I love Elle Aycart. That is why I will drop everything to read her books, she captures the fundamental raw emotions of human essence. That bad guy? Isn't all he seems, not all 'bad guys' are evil. Not all women are weak, quite the contrary. Not all preconceptions are even close to the truth...

Ladies... the Bowen's are back. If you love the Bowen brothers as much as I do, this one? Is all the things. If you haven't read this series, what are you waiting for? IT IS ALL THE THINGS. Nico... is everything you're not sure you want, but everything you are oh-so sure you need.

In Hard Limits, a companion novella to the Bowen Boys Series, we get up close and personal with Escobar and Goth girl. Two characters that have tantalized our imaginations for a while now, Nico Grabar, crime boss, ruthless Cartel leader, and Paige aka Goth girl, wearing layers of camouflage protecting her heart and her secrets. Literally. We witness an intense connection between a strong male and female lead. We are privy to secrets as the layers unfold. We watch darkness be circumvented by light.

Elle's sense of humor is just uniquely hers. She makes you laugh out loud in a way most authors strive for, it's natural for her. I big red heart love this Series. I adore these characters. Writing with an ease that connects her readers and transports them into another world, she leaves us longing for alpha men with hearts, that simply want to care for what's 'theirs.'

"He'd take anything before love, love was lethal."

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## Natasha is a Book Junkie says

***“There must be something wrong with me. It figures that when I finally fall in love, it’s with a damned drug lord half the world wants to kill.”***

It is always with great trepidation that I begin reading a novella penned by a much-loved author, knowing all too well that I will inevitably wish it were longer. And when it comes to anything written by Elle Aycart, no story will ever be long enough because I will never stop craving for more. Strangely enough, nothing about this story felt too short or too hurried, and from the moment I dove in, I was consumed. The story of a broken young woman desperate to find herself and the dangerous kingpin she unexpectedly falls for, this was yet another dazzling addition to a beloved series that I wish would never ever end, and just one more reason why this author will forever remain a top favourite of mine.

*Continue reading this review...*

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## Gi's Spot Reviews says

Hard Limits is the perfect proof of why I'm so damn addicted to Elle's stories, and this HOT Bowen universe! One of my fav reads this year and one I truly recommend to everyone out there! Better to start with the beginning of the series, though, and you'll see what all the buzz is about! These Bowen are a guaranteed satisfaction, in every possible way \*wink, wink\*!!!

We first got a glimpse into these characters, Nico and Paige in Jacked Up, and immediately I was drawn to them.

Nico, the deep undercover agent slash newly positioned drug lord, and Paige, the mysterious Goth waitress of Rosita's (Bowen family associated restaurant), seems like an apparently odd pairing, right? Well, one thing is certain, they sure left an impression on one another. That and some undeniable attraction, from their very first encounter.

**“You wanted me the first time we met, but you didn’t go for it. What changed?” “I changed. I go for what I want.”**

But we soon find out how truly deceiving appearances can really be, when fate decides to reunite them in the strangest and life threatening of situations. They end up giving in to their insane attraction, thinking it will be a fast burn case, but evidently thing because much more complicated. Nothing is simple about them as individuals, much less as them as a couple!

**“You have no fucking clue what it’s like to wake up in a panic, terrified I said your name in my sleep and someone heard me. I dream about you every night and wake up hard and afraid. Hoping against hope no one will notice the change in me. That’s why I didn’t want you here. Because you are**



**unraveling me piece by piece, and I fucking hate it.”**

**“If you hate it so much, why are you here?” she asked, standing her ground.**

**“Because I can’t stay away. Because I can’t fucking breathe without you. Because nothing’s worth a damn if I don’t have you. Because I’ve fucking lost my mind. Enough reasons?”**

I don’t want to give too much away because as all of Elle Aycart’s books, reading it needs to be an experienced, so that you can go through all the feelings – and boy, she sure does make us feel, every-freaking-thing – and I can never get enough! From the well constructed and deep characters, enrapturing plot and volcanic chemistry and sex scenes, *Hard Limits* was catapulted directly to my all time favorite list. Elle Aycart gave us in *Hard Limits* a passionate and enthralling novella that will surely get you just as hooked on her books as I am. Nico and Paige were absolutely perfect – in their own and particular way, of course! And HOT, did I say HOT already?! LOL

This book was such an amazing surprise (since I was expecting Morgana’s book to be next), but the best kind of surprise. It tidied up my Bowen craving and gave me the delicious Nico and the captivating Paige, but like the true greedy b!tch that I am, now I want Morgana!!! Counting down the days here!!! Pretty please... <3 <3 <3 <3 <3

**“For years there was nothing in my life but darkness and thirst for revenge, whatever the personal cost. Nothing else mattered. Then you came waltzing into my bleak existence, with your quirks and your crazy hair and your lovely smiles, and you fucking blinded me. I should have let you go, but I couldn’t. I just fucking couldn’t, and now you are my priority. I will do whatever it takes to keep you safe. Because I love you.”**

*ARC kindly provided by the author for an honest review*

For full review with Release Blitz, check out my blog post,  
<http://gisspotreviews.com/index.php/2...>

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## **Claire Robinson says**

5 - **"You're the best decision I ever made..."** Stars!

**ITs LIVE! -**

Amazon UK - <http://amzn.eu/j3fNTp7>

Amazon US - <http://a.co/8lntdS5>

Elle Aycart is one of only a handful of authors for whom I will literally drop everything to read a book by. So when *Hard Limits* hit my Kindle, you can imagine my weekend plans went slightly awry! And it was so worth it.

Nico and Paige were secondary characters in the previous book *Jacked Up*, although Paige has popped here

and there previously in that she works with Tate in the Restaurant, but if like me after finishing *Jacked Up* you were intrigued about the fleeting connection between these two, and hoped that the author would give them their own story, then your wait is over because this is it, and as you would expect it's a damn fine one as well.

**"This goes nowhere. I'm not the kind of guy who stays... I'm the kind of guy who leaves."**

There is a lot going on in this book, considering its novella length, and it certainly didn't feel like I was reading a novella at the time, as you would expect being a part of the *Bowen Boys* series, you see plenty of interaction from the Bowen's themselves and all the previous characters that have become like extended family as the series has grown.

***Something about him called to her...***

But this is a story about a couple, that really shouldn't be a couple, *Goth-girl* and *Escobar* are two very different people, dealing with two very different life situations, one covers up their vulnerabilities and scars with ever changing hair-colour and a myriad of piercings, while the other keeps himself hidden behind a façade of cold detachment and bodyguards, that is until the night the bodyguards aren't around, and the enemy strikes...

Gah! This book was hot, sweet, sexy, surprising and in parts funny. The author as usual delivered a story that gives you a couple dealing with some pretty deep issues, but surrounded them with a cast of entertaining and well-loved secondary characters that kept everything moving along. I loved Nico and all his alpha dominance, Paige more than stood up to him, and the ending just kept me on pins, I am not ashamed to say a few tears were shed as well. You literally go through the wringer with them, but it is worth every second of your time.

**"The only way out now is in a body bag..."**

This is an author that delights, surprises and always keeps the reader on their toes, she writes sexy the way most authors only wish they could, and she isn't afraid to get down and dirty with her couples in all respects, and it makes the stories she gives them all the more enjoyable because of it. I spend a lot of time waiting for reading material by Elle Aycart, but she always delivers and it's always worth the wait.

**"Never ignore your gut. Ever."**

ARC generously provided by the author, and it was as it always is, an absolute pleasure to provide the above honest review.

**\*\*This review will also appear on Straight Shootin' Book Reviews -  
<https://straightshootinbookreviews.com>**

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## Tpagirl says

Hard Limits was the fourth book in the Bowen Boys series by Elle Aycart. It was enjoyable, sexy, action packed and suspenseful.

Hard Limits was a quick read that highlighted Nico, the new head of the drug Cartel, and Paige, the goth waitress at Rosita's. Aycart gave us a unique perspective trying to make a vicious and ruthless cartel leader as a soft, forever love kinda guy. He was tough, protective and totally alpha, but he was also gentle and sweet - with Paige.

The storyline took us through some sexy scenes as well as some suspenseful plots. Aycart pulled it off well. We have a few teasers in who may be next, my guess is Shawn and I can't wait!

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## ✿kawehi.reviews says

Elle Aycart always manages to exceed my expectations for this series.

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## Ellen ♦ Book Bellas ♦ says

What a ride!! Action-packed, SEXXXXY story. This book MUST be read after 'Jacked Up' so I'll keep this spoiler-free. Elle Aycart writes some of THE best contemporary romance stories and she delivers the goods plus some with this story. Nico's story is a wild ride and is a nice addition to anyone's romantic suspense library.

*"...you are unraveling me piece by piece, and I fucking hate it."*

Ms. Aycart has created some very memorable characters in her books and this one is no exception. I loved the goth love interest here who really gives Nico a run for his money. Paige literally saves Nico's life and he will do anything for her. This story is a fast, action-packed read, and a great addition to the Bowen Boys series.

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## Devika says

5 "goth girl" stars....

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## ~IreneOust~ says

Ever read a book where supporting character's page presence is so strong that you feel like if he/she doesn't get a book of his/her own, it would be a great disservice by an author towards their readers??

This is exactly what happened when Nico showed up in **Jacked Up** and almost stole the show from Jack ...

and those of you who read Jack and Elle's story would probably agree that it was nearly an impossible task! Lucky for us [readers who've been hoping and praying for Nico's story to be told] the author was kind enough to grant us that wish and the countdown officially began ... over a year ago. BUT, they say good things come to those who wait and they [whoever they are!] couldn't be more right in this case!

This author has an amazing ability to write über alpha male leads! They always hit the mark for me. However, as much as I was THRILLED to start reading 'Nico's book', I quickly realized that a certain 'Goth Girl' stole the show from the fine Russian specimen ...

Paige's ability to hold her own against Nico's strong personality is what won me over. She is great mix of smart, funny, dorky at times, someone who is comfortable with her sexuality and, most of all, she is a fighter. Heroines can make or break a book for me and, in this case, Paige managed to elevate my reading experience to a whole new level. I didn't expect to enjoy her character as much as I did. Kudos to the author for writing yet another perfect couple I can now add to my 'favorite couples' list.

Elle Aycart always manages to deliver one of the most entertaining supporting casts, witty dialogue, scorching chemistry and her stories never lack action. Speaking of chemistry though ... Paige and Nico simply SIZZLE together. One of the most unlikely pairings, these two are perfect for each other. Love the fact that they accept and 'see' one another for who they really are.

Even though HARD LIMITS was always meant to be a novella, it could have easily been a full length novel because enough stuff happened in the story for it to be one. I did find that a couple of things felt rushed and maybe a bit too far-fetched BUT they didn't take away from me enjoying this couple and their story. I think maybe I am just being selfish in wanting more page time with this awesome duo!

PLEASE NOTE: you MUST read **Jacked Up** before you can read and enjoy this spin-off novella. It won't make much sense otherwise. Not to mention it will definitely spoil 'Jacket Up' for you, should you choose to go back and read it at a later date and, even though 'Jacked Up' is marked as Book 4 in the series, it can easily be read as standalone so you don't have to read all four books in the series to get to 'HARD LIMITS'.

*\*\* ARC provided by an author in exchange for an honest review.*

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