

# **Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates #Tasting 131 - Read Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates Tasting 131**

Tasting 131

131–The Private Talk

Nora:

My eyes widened at the direction their conversation was taking. He just told her he was finished with her. If I knew her well, she'd be blaming me for her breakup..

“Nash! I'm not sure if she meant to harm me—,” I whispered to him, but he gestured for me to hush and let him handle her.

“What are you saying?” Daphne asked him after a moment of silence, perhaps questioning if she heard him correctly.

“I can't deal with your messy behavior anymore. It was okay before, and I could forgive you for what you did to me, but now—now your actions have involved my stepsister. I won't tolerate it,” Nash spoke calmly, but his words left her gasping in shock.

“No! I don't accept it. Our relationship wasn't one-sided, so why are you the only one deciding what happens?” Her breakdown was sudden and alarming. I didn't think she was acting. The genuine sorrow in her voice was frightening.

“I've said what I needed to. If you can lie to me so cruelly, then I don't know what else you're capable of,” he hissed at her without raising his

Voice.

Anxiety gripped me, but I suppose he was right. She had been lying so much. She even lied about them being destined mates. And then she lied about the river and didn't even tell Nash I had gone into the woods. She did everything to distract him and buy time. But why? Did she know if he delayed, I might not make it out alive? Was she the one

who pushed me?

Now everything started to make sense, and she was the only one looking guilty.

“I'm sorry I forgot that she wanted to go to the woods for water, but I'm not lying. She's deceiving you, and one day you'll regret it. You'll regret letting her manipulate

phone, but Nash ended the. I'm innocent!” she screamed into the

call.

Silence surrounded us before he sighed and set his phone down. I watched him sit and lean back. He seemed weary and perhaps hurt too.

“Are you hurting?” I knew breakups could be messy.

He opened his eyes and shifted slightly on the couch, and my gaze followed his movement like a thirsty puppy.

“I’ll be fine.” he uttered, patting the spot beside him. Without hesitation, I sat down next to him, turning my body towards his while he faced the bed.

“Have you ever fallen in love before?” he asked, tilting his head towards me.

“Not really. I mean, I’ve had crushes—wait, you loved her?” I asked, realizing I probably shouldn’t focus on my own life but rather on what he was going through.

“That’s the problem. I don’t think I was ever in love. We started dating because her stepfather suggested we were a good match and had similar interests. But slowly, I began to realize I didn’t want someone with just similar interests,” he sighed softly, conveying his feelings of being lost and confused.

“Then what do you want in a partner?” I knew the brothers hadn’t

131–The Private Talk

found their destined mates yet, at least Silas and Nash hadn’t. But if it continued, there was a chance they would settle for a chosen mate. But that would also require a certain type of attraction.

“That’s the issue. I don’t even know what love feels like. I thought it was something that just happened automatically when we start dating someone. But boy, that proved to be wrong. I lost interest in Daphne so quickly, and after that, it was just her making efforts and me suggesting we should break up here and there,” Nash rolled his eyes before covering them with his hands and sighing.

“I’m sure you’ll find love soon. Everybody does,” I mumbled cheerfully, giving him a wide smile.

He watched my face in silence before adjusting his posture,

straightening his back, indicating he was about to discuss something

serious.

“Have you ever—found someone attractive in a sexual way?” he asked, and I stared at him in silence for a few seconds, trying to understand why he was asking his stepsister that question.

“I—well,” I laughed nervously, trying to change the subject.

“Oh, come on. You can share with me. Anything you have in mind,” he insisted, making me gulp and attempt to break eye contact, but he kept staring into my eyes.

“Okay! Let me rephrase the question for you. So, when you came into our lives, you were an adult and we were adults. It’s not like just meeting each other gave us the feeling of being family. You

know where I’m going with this, right?” he suddenly paused to ask me when he noticed my clueless expression.

“I have no idea,” I shook my head, feeling lost.

131–The Private Talk

“Ugh! How do I say it? We’re not your stepbrothers by blood or by official documents, right?” he inquired, and I pondered before nodding.

“Correct!” I squinted my eyes a little, trying to understand what he was getting at. I have not watched him so confidently clueless before. He

Was

attempting to say something but it must have been a little sensitive of a topic or else, why the fuck was there a blush on his cheeks?

I couldn’t help but look at him with awe.

Cain and thought he

“Then, have you ever—maybe—looked at

was hot?” That question not only surprised me but hit me like a silver bullet. The hair on the back of my neck stood up while his eyes showed he knew why he was asking me that question. The way I was watching him changed. I was now worried why he was asking me these questions?

“Have you ever looked at your stepbrothers a little differently?” he added. I was still reeling from the fact that he used Cain’s name. Why? added. I was still reeling from the fa

Why so specific?

“Maybe Ryker too?” That was it. Something had happened. Why the heck was he mentioning the two individuals I felt a mate bond with? I gulped while staring at him, and then he added, “I know what you feel about them, Nora.”

Tasting 132

132–They Touched Me And I Liked It

Nora:

“What? What do you mean? What do you know?” The panic wasn’t the best way of showing him that I was guilty. I should’ve acted clueless and stayed calm.

“I know you have feelings for them, and it’s completely sexual,” he added, causing me to take a deep breath as he observed the anxiety building up in my body.

“I’m not sure—no!” I laughed at first, then sternly shook my head to dismiss his accusations.

“Nora! When I brought you here, you were talking in your sleep. You said some really weird stuff about Cain and Ryker,” he explained more clearly, and every time he spoke, it felt like somebody was pouncing on

1. me.

I felt embarrassed and ashamed.

“I must be really high,” I joked, but soon every trace of a smile vanished from my lips when he narrowed his eyes at my face.

“I understand, though,” he quickly added to calm me down, and he did.

“It’s normal for two adults to feel such tension. And you’re young, brought here to the mansion among such hotties,” he tried to joke before clearing his throat and saying, “You also have desires, and since you haven’t even found a mate yet, I understand your frustration. Besides, it’s not like we’re stepsiblings.”

132 They Touched Me And I Liked

It helped listening to him say that. That’s how I felt too. I couldn’t just be someone’s stepsister just because I was left to live in their home.

“However, you’re a virgin and they do feel heat and stuff when around sexy alphas or alpha kings,” the minute he talked about my virginity, my mouth went dry. Oh no! I’ve

told them all I'm a virgin. Now who will I say I lost my virginity to? Because that certain someone doesn't. even want to acknowledge it.

"Right! About that—" I cleared my throat, gently pushing my finger against my chin as he kept watching my face in bewilderment.

"I'm not sure—how to tell you but—I am no longer—in fact," I gulped, clearing my throat.

"Nora! You know very soon the documents will be signed and then you will become our official stepsister, right?" he added in such a calm. tone that for a moment, even I thought to react calmly. But then it struck me.

Official stepsister? That would mean I cannot be with my mates. How did I forget about it?

"I just want to know if anything has happened between you and my brothers," he narrowed his eyes, looking intimidating.

"I am really asking you this once. I just want to know," he added, using an alpha king tone with me.

"Will you get angry if I said—something like, maybe—?" I squeezed my body closer, watching him examine my reaction.

"No!" His response helped me let out a deep breath of relief.

"Does that mean—?" he tilted his head.

132 They Touched Me And Liked it

"Not really. Um! Accidentally, yes," I nodded my head, and he lowered his face, probably coming up with the next question.

"With Cain and Ryker?" he inquired, not even raising his head. It was getting too personal, but I was kind of just confiding in him because I couldn't in anyone else.

"With Silas too," the minute I said that, Nash shot his head up and glared at me with so much intensity that I jumped and slid away from him.

"You said you won't get angry," I pointed my finger at him, calling him out for lying to me.

"I'm not angry. Just tell me what and how it happened," he closed his eyes, but I saw his jaw clench.

“No! I’m not saying anything else anymore,” I got up, but his hold against my wrist pulled me down again, almost making me fall on him.

“If you won’t tell me, I won’t help you in the future,” he folded his muscular arms over his chest and shook his foot.

“Help me in what?” I asked with a frown.

“Anything. There are so many ways I can help you. Maybe get you out of trouble or— give you something you want,” I didn’t know what he

was hinting at, but getting out of tr was hinting at, but getting out of trouble sounded like a good deal.

I took a deep breath and lowered my head as I uttered, “When I first arrived at the mansion, Cain thought I was one of his models, so he touched me—with his brush and umm finger on the upper part of the forbidden two cities,” I finished, and by then, I swear my cheeks must have turned red. They were itching so much.

322 The Touched Me And I Liked in

“Aha! Okay, what about Silas?” he asked, his voice sounding a little hoarse.

“Umm! This one day we were fighting over the remote controller, and I hid it in my shirt, thinking he wouldn’t reach out for it,” I paused as he added.

“And he did.”

“Yes! He did. He scratched me up in that whole mess, and then he tried to make things right by applying medicine, but he ended up— touching my two cities,” I finished, covering my face in my hands and feeling like I was crazy.

And why the heck was I telling him everything?

“Okay! What about Ryker?” he questioned, and this time, I started to remember all the times we had been intimate.

And none of those times was a mistake. But then I recalled something that Natalya had been threatening me over.

“We were talking and were standing pretty close when We accidentally—.” I stopped because Nash had something to say.

“Did your two cities come between you two?” I liked his sarcasm, but I shook my head.

“No! We kissed,” I finished, and as I raised my head, I watched his widen.

all this time?" he in

"Wow! So they were teasing you and I grimaced at the choice of his words.

"Don't say it like that," I hissed, slapping the back of his hand.

eyes

132 They Touched Me And Like It

"Kissed as in, you used tongue?" I don't know why he was so keen on talking about details.

"Ugh! Can we stop talking about it? I'm already embarrassed enough," I sighed, hoping maybe it would be over when I heard him say over when I heard him say

something under his breath.

"So, basically, you and I are the only ones who haven't mistakenly been intimate then?" I gulped because when I looked at his face, I found a little something naughty in his eyes.

Tasting 133

133-My Stepbrother Gives The Best Cuddles

Nora:

"I mean. I know you've been having desires and you're new to these things. If you need any help--," he was looking me in the eye while talking until he suddenly clammed up.

"Forget about it. Forget we had this conversation," he quickly shook his head and got up from the couch. "I don't want you to feel uncomfortable. But Nora! If you ever feel like you're in any sort of trouble, you can come to me. I will put your comfort first before any rules," those words from his lips helped me smile.

After Natalya's accusations, I had been feeling very uneasy, but hearing Nash say that was comforting.

"Thank you," I said, giving him a smile.

"No problem. It's just that the heart wants what it wants," the little fade of his smile and the sadness in his eyes confused me, but soon he

started unpacking the food for us.

“You never told me where we were headed?” Now that we were past every uncomfortable conversation, life-threatening situation, breakup, and even my empty stomach growling, I asked him.

“We are headed to the forbidden town. There once were some rogues that lived there, but not anymore. You know, these monsters, they don’t just come out of nowhere to attack us. Silas studied the samples and he told us that the monsters don’t have the knowledge or even brains to

come out and then go perfectly into hiding. They are creatures that are being used by someone,” he started explaining, making the hair on my

### 133 My Stepbrother Gives The Best Cuddes

skin stand up. It was scary to think about.

Someone from the pack or probably a rogue was controlling these monsters and making them attack unsuspecting she-wolves.

“Who could it be?” I asked.

“I’ve done some research and figured out there’s this guy hiding in the forbidden town. I’m not sure why he’s doing this or what he wants from she-wolves, but I guess once we catch him, we’ll figure it out soon,” Nash said, cleaning his hands with a napkin and steadily picking up the empty boxes and trashing them.

He was always so neat and clean.

“But how will we know it’s him?” I questioned.

“We will know,” he gave me a direct look and replied, making me wonder if he was telling me the entire story or not.

“Let’s rest, we have a mission to work on in the morning,” he uttered.

“Hey, you can sleep in the bed. There’s a lot of space here,” I patted the empty space beside me, hinting that we could place pillows between

1. us.

He looked at the bed and then at me before shaking his head.

“I’m fine here,” he said, resting his head back and closing his eyes. I watched him not even bother lying down on the couch and sleep in a sitting position.



After I lay down in the bed, I watched the bad weather from the window, and the thunder rumbling made me gulp.

The power went out, and soon it started to get creepy. The lightning

131 My Stepbrother Gives The Best Cuddies

11

bolts would light up the room once in a while, and I feared seeing some shadows on the wall.

Flashback:

“It is so creepy. Can you please leave one of the lights on and the door open for me?” I asked my father, giving him a broken smile.

“Don’t be a wuss!” Dad bitterly commented before slamming the door shut. I quickly closed my eyes and hid under my blanket, gulping as I heard the rumbling of the clouds.

After a few minutes, when no monsters came to drag me out of the bed, I opened my eyes and sighed in relief.

“Maybe Dad is right, I need to stop being a chicken,” I smiled to myself, staring at the wall until the lightning struck and the room lit

1. up.

The wall in front of me showed the shadow of the monster in my room. It had big ears and claws that it was waving in the air, almost as if warning me that it was coming for me.

“NOOOO! GET AWAY FROM ME!” I screamed at the top of my lungs, closing my eyes and whimpering.

The footsteps approached my room and the door opened with a thud, compelling me to open my eyes and roll out of the bed to hug my father.

“There was a monster in my room,” I cried out, hugging his legs.

“What the fuck is wrong with you, child?” he yelled back, kicking me off his leg and watching me land on the floor.

133 My Stepbrother Gives The Best Cuddles

“But I saw it,” I whimpered.

"If I hear you make noise one more time, you will sleep outside where the real monsters can come eat you alive," Dad warned, wagging his finger and glaring at me.

I gasped and hugged myself, realizing that my father looked like a monster himself. He slammed the door again and soon I was all by myself again.

"Boo!"

"A-," at the voice of someone from behind me, I shuddered but quickly covered my mouth to not scream and get my father's attention.

I turned to the mischievous one and frowned.

"It was you?" I was surprised he was hiding

in my room just to scare

1. me.

"Huh! You are such a coward, crying to Daddy and then getting scolded," he slapped my forehead, mocking me while making his to the exit.

End of Flashback

way

"AHHHHH!" I shook awake, so distraught by the distant memory that I swear I saw something move.

"Hey! It's just me. I woke up for water," Nash instantly rushed beside me and patted his hand on my forehead.

"It was just me," he bent over, looking deep into my eyes.

"I can't sleep alone. I'm scared," for a minute, I didn't remember I

was

133 My Stepbrother Goes The Best Cuddles

not that child anymore.

"Do you want me to?" he frowned, his hand still gently patting my forehead.

"Please, will it be inappropriate?" I asked in a sleepy, scared voice.

“No!” he shook his head, giving me a comforting look before he crawled into the bed behind me. His strong arms wrapped around my body, and I slept like no harm could come to me now.

Tasting 134

134—Following His Scent

Nora:

I woke up to find him already gone. It was amazing that he stayed beside me and didn't let the awkwardness stop him from making me feel comfortable.

“That was hot,” Ajira commented. Since he was not in the room, I had taken a shower and even twisted the ring on my finger to have a word with myself.

I knew she must have a lot of comments to make about it.

“He was so nice about everything.” I recalled the whole journey, and he had only made things comfortable for me.

“He is nice. And also hot,” Akira added, making me give her an eye

roll.

“Okay! Way to show you are too thirsty,” I commented.

“But Nora! Did Daphne really push us down? If so, then isn't it a bit crazy? If she is willing to push us down over some disagreement that she had from one side, what would she do now that he has broken. things off with her because of what she did to us?” Akira was right. Daphne could be pretty crazy.

I didn't really think about her until I met her again. She was crazier than—I tilted my head as I tried to recall—who she was messy?

Natalya was a bit crazy, but she wasn't as crazy as Daphne.

134—Following His Scem

“Oh, and by the way, Nash said we will have this in the papers soon. What are we going to do about that? I am sure you are aware that after the signing of the papers, we cannot even be with our mates,” Akira added, and I gave her a nod as I was also considering discussing this matter with Cain and Ryker.

"I am so exhausted with all the secrecy. I don't know why, but I feel like I am digging more holes for myself than resolving my issues." I sighed heavily, recalling how many troubles I have left behind at home.

"For now, let's focus on this mission and make sure we don't get Nash into any more worries. This journey has already been too much for him." Akira suggested. I quickly fixed my ring when I heard the door open a little.

Nash had returned, wearing a white and black pants, with breakfast in his hands.

"Good morning." he greeted with his usual goofy smile.

"Breakfast, yum!" My excitement for the food made him smile widely.

"Okay! So after this, we will set off on our journey again, and by the afternoon, I believe we will be in the forbidden town," Nash stated while packing his belongings.

"Nash!" My call halted him in his steps, and he turned to look at me. "Thank you for last night. You have no idea how comfortable I felt after talking to you and then—you sleeping beside me."

He kept watching my face before he smiled innocently. "May I ask you something?"

I nodded my head, and he turned to face me entirely. "Are you dating Brody?"

134 Following His Scent

That question came out of nowhere. My eyes narrowed at him as I wondered why he would randomly bring up Brody when I hadn't even spoken to him about it.

"No! Why?" I asked in confusion.

"Oh, nothing. It's just that I heard you picked him over Ryker in school, so I wondered what might be going on," the smile he gave me looked forced, but there was no other way he would have considered asking me that question.

Maybe he did feel like I picked Brody because I was dating him.

"Oh! Umm, Ryker called me yesterday to ask about you," Nash made a vague comment before he disappeared into the bathroom to get ready for the day.

I stared at the empty wall as I recalled the last few days and how things have gone between me and Ryker.

Did Ryker tell him something about Brody?

I do remember Ryker warning me that if I didn't tell Brody that I couldn't date him, he would do something about it. Then I focused on Nash's changed behavior. Were these brothers maybe talking about me and sharing our personal business with each other?

I shook my head to clear my thoughts and tried not to get too deep into doubting them. They have been nice to me, so I wouldn't want to ruin it because of some doubts.

"All done with breakfast?" Nash walked out wearing black khaki pants and a shirt, with a jacket on top. I noticed some weapons sticking out of his belt and realized how serious this mission was going to be.

"Yes!" I nodded, getting up from the couch and grabbing my bags, but

134 Following His Scent

he quickly took them out of my hands.

"I will carry them to the car," his voice was always rough, but his tone was so gentle with me.

After he loaded our bags in the trunk of the car, we were back on our mission.

"Nora! I saw you have a weapon. Keep it because we might come

across a situation where we have to use it," he warned me in a serious tone. My body felt the itch, but I nodded confidently even though I was scared.

The journey began, and in less than three hours, we were entering a town with many old and abandoned houses. Even the air in the town

felt eerie.

The little noises of windows creaking with the wind and the whooshing sounds were creepy. He parked the car and grabbed his gun, which had bullets laced with wolfbane.

I held the dagger tightly in my hand and stayed close behind him. He had a piece of cloth in his hand that he was smelling and following the scent from. I figured that's how he knew there was

someone summoning the monsters. The piece of cloth must have been found when the brothers were chasing after the monsters.

Nash stopped in front of an empty hospital and stared at the entrance.

“This is where his scent stops. He must be inside,” he commented, gesturing for me to go back to the car.

“What? I want to stay here and help you out,” I insisted, but he shook his head.

12 following His Scent

11

“There could be monsters here,” he informed me. “Just go and stay in the car. If anything happens, I want you to call my brothers.”

Tasting 135

135–He Is A Monster

Nora:

He wouldn't allow me to accompany him under any circumstances. I was pushed away, with no other choice but to retreat to the car. With no signals, what on earth did he mean by informing his brothers?

“Ugh! This town is so messed up. It has nothing to offer,” I grumbled, kicking the rock while keeping my eyes on the road. I wanted to stay vigilant and ensure I kept an eye on the hospital.

‘Akira! You have to be here with me. If he needs help, we have to come. to his aid,’ I added, nervously twisting the ring on my finger. After a few minutes of silence, I heard a loud growl, and then a freaking beast- like monster rolled out of the hospital with a much smaller wolf in its claws.

“What the heck!” I groaned, shuddering as the monster dragged the wolf toward the car. The other wolf was badly wounded, bleeding from multiple spots. My heart started pounding as I realized the bigger one was Nash. I had never seen him transition before. But why the heck was his wolf like that? It didn't seem like a normal wolf.

I was so scared, even though I knew the scarier one was on my side, that I instantly got inside the car and shut the door tightly. ‘Go back! Go back!’ I told Akira, repeatedly fidgeting with the ring out of fear. The monstrous Nash stopped next to the car, and then with a thud, he hit his head against my side of the window.

“Oh no! Please go away, I'm not coming out,” I started wailing in fear. Why did he want me to come out of the car? Couldn't he tell I was

### 135 He is A Monster

beyond frightened? I don't think he cared because soon he began to bump onto the car to get my attention.

"What on earth!" I screamed, rushing over to the driver's side and getting out of the car. He let go of the wounded wolf and ran to my side in such haste that I covered my face with my hands and knelt down. He grunted, his claws hitting me hard as he demanded I uncover my face. In fear, I complied. He stood tall before me, his eyes red, saliva dripping from his mouth. He growled and hit his head against the back door."

"You want me to shove him into the car?" I asked, trembling. He growled, and I knew that's what he wanted me to do.

"I'll do it," shaking and stuttering, I ran to the other side and watched the wolf transform into a human form before passing out. I stood there while Nash ran behind a big building, probably to scare off ghosts.

"Please don't wake up on me," I whispered, holding the man's hands. and dragging him into the backseat of the car.

"Ugh!" I groaned at how difficult it was. I had forgotten about Akira entirely. Watching Nash and how rough he was just stunned me.

"Did you tie him up?" I had only just jumped out of the car when Nash's voice from behind me made me jump and almost fall down.

"Hey! I am not a monster," he rolled his eyes, wearing only pants.

"Damn right you are," I yelled now that I knew he was in his human form. The way his wolf form was crazy.

He narrowed his eyes at me, and I had an explanation ready for him.

"Your wolf is nuts. He didn't even care where he was hitting me as

### 135 Is A Monster

long as he delivered his message," I hissed, pointing and showing him the scratches I got from his wolf when he was making his point.

"Ugh! He's a little rough," Nash gently touched my wounds, but I pulled away from him.

"Little rough? He's crazy. You better tell him not to scare me like that again. I'm going to have nightmares for days now," I complained, watching Nash place his hand on the roof of the car and hunch over

1. me.

“Don’t worry, I can give you a hug when you sleep,” the smile he showed made me gulp. My mood changed, but I kept the facade of being angry.

“And no! I didn’t tie him up. Do it yourself.” I stepped aside because him being shirtless in front of me was not helping.

Of course, he wouldn’t know, he didn’t feel that way, but weirdly enough, I was a bit too excited around my stepbrothers. And I was noticing it now more than before.”

“It’s fine. You did a great job,” he mumbled, getting in the car and swiftly tying him up while I walked around, taking in the fresh air.

“Done. You can come back. We should start heading home now,” Nash called from the car, now sporting a blue shirt. I slid into the

now sporting a blue shirt. I slid in

into the passenger seat, and for the first few minutes, I didn’t know how else to broach the conversation about his wolf. But I was growing curious about him.

“What’s up with your wolf?” I inquired, trying not to sound too evasive but feeling it important to know.

And here I thought my wolf was the only one that was crazy.

135—He Is A Monster

“Nothing, just a little cursed,” he commented with a laugh, making me turn my head to watch him act like it was no big deal.

“This is where you explain your comment to me,” I used a slightly higher-pitched tone this time.

“There’s nothing to talk about. I just know I’m cursed, and that’s all,” he shrugged, continuing to drive, his eyes on the road. I was getting more and more anxious then.

“What kind of curse, and do the pack members know about it?” I didn’t mean to threaten him; I was just curious. And thankfully, he didn’t see it that way.

“Yeah, they know there’s something off. I try not to transition in front of them and scare them, but they know,” he calmly replied, compelling me to lean back and ponder how much there was about my brothers that I didn’t know.



Tasting 136

136—Accused By His Ex Girlfriend

Nora:

“Why isn’t he waking up? Is he dead?” Finally, after hours of journeying, we conversed as if none of the crazy stuff that had happened on our way to town had occurred.

“Heavy—dozed wolfbane turned him into a little bitch,” Nash commented, sounding proud of his success in his mission.

“Hmm! What are you going to do with him?” I asked, turning back to look at the man. He appeared like a normal guy, someone who had a family and all. But he was not. And that made him scarier. It was the fact that some dangerous people live in sheep’s clothing.

“I am going to roast him and feed him to his monsters,” Nash replied. his muscles popping as he gripped the steering wheel.

“Come on, I’m being serious,” I frowned.

“I was serious. I am going to torture him to get information out of him, then I am going to make him summon his monsters and feed him to them, and later, I am going to take care of those monsters too,” he explained his intentions in one breath, and oh, sweet Goddess, I was scared of him for a moment.

“Okay,” I mumbled, sliding away from him and looking out the window. “The house is here. I will drop you here and then take him to the prison.” Nash pointed at the mansion, and I gave him a nod.

“I will get the bags later. You can drop him off first,” I was tired and didn’t want to carry the bags, nor did I want him to carry them for me

13—Accused By His Ex Girlfriend

when there was a crazy man lying in the backseat of his car.

“Just drop me here. I will stretch my legs and walk my way back. home.” I waved my hand at him to stop. The mansion was right across the road, and I badly needed to make use of my legs.

“Are you sure?” Nash asked.

“Yes! I can walk that much,” I confirmed, giving him a headshake. I appreciated his overprotectiveness. He dropped me off on the side and sped away. Now that I was on

my own, I stretched my arms and moved my legs calmly. Sitting for so long had really made my legs numb. The night was upon us, but the weather was so pleasant that I wanted to stay outside for a while. But I was also aware that the others had returned home, and I had to deal with the same stuff all over again.

However, as I had not expected, I didn't realize there would be someone else awaiting me. A white car that I had not seen before was parked in front of the mansion. Thinking maybe it was someone from the council or work, I marched into the mansion cluelessly. My steps halted right when I saw who was there.

It was Daphne and her stepfather, Ford Ledger. They were sitting with Lord Atwood and Cain. Ryker and Silas were not around. Daphne raised her head and adjusted her posture, nudging her stepfather to

me and then looked

at my way. Lord Atwood followed their gazes to

back at them before finally turning to me.

"You're home," he smiled, but there was a hint of concern in his gaze.

"Yeah, Nash just dropped me off. He went to the prison with the guy."

I replied, but my mind was slightly preoccupied with Daphne and her stepfather being here. Why were they here? She had swollen eyes and seemed to be crying now.

136 Accused By His Ex Girlfriend

"Is there something going on here?" I could tell I was somehow involved in this matter.

"No, my child. You go rest," Lord Atwood smiled reassuringly, but Ford quickly intervened, not letting me walk away.

"Actually, yes," he added.

"Ford!" Lord Atwood gave him a disapproving look, but Ford seemed adamant about having a conversation with me.

"Please, Your Highness. I respect you a lot. I understand that you care about your stepdaughter, but that doesn't mean I don't care about mine," he pointed a finger at his chest as he spoke to Lord Atwood.

“What is it?” I asked since it was related to me. I slowly walked into the living room and sat right next to Lord Atwood. Daphne’s eyes were flashing red, and her anger was now evident.

“You tell us. What happened on the journey? Why was my daughter sent back in the middle of the way, and why is she being accused of something so horrific?” he asked me directly, his body

hunched over with his elbows on his thighs. I never thought I would be confronted by someone’s father like this, and at this age! It was crazy.

“Easy,” Cain interjected, stretching his neck and placing his hand on Ford’s back to remind him to straighten his posture. Cain was sitting on the lonely sofa between our couches.

“What did she tell you?” I questioned, curious about the lies she might have spun to her stepfather.

“I told him how you ruined my relationship with Nash because you want his attention for yourself,” Daphne hissed, pointing her finger at me until her eyes shifted to Cain, noticing how he cracked his

155—Accused By His Ex Girlfred

knuckles while making dreadful eye contact with her.

“But I didn’t. Did you tell your stepfather what you did to me and how you put me in a life-threatening situation?” That was it. I had been feeling sorry for her and was even afraid to talk about the possibility that she might have pushed me. Yet here she was, blatantly lying as if there were no consequences.

“I did not,” she folded her arms over her chest, but my stepfather and Cain had heard enough.

“Wait!” Cain shook his head to silence everyone. “What did you just say? What did she do?” Cain leaned over me this time, his eyes fixed

on me and his finger pointing at me.

“She almost got me killed,” I finally spoke my truth, receiving a shocked response from Lord Atwood and a gasp from Daphne, as if she didn’t realize the severity of her actions.

Tasting 137

137—Her Angry Stepfather

Nora:

“What?” Cain asked again. I could tell he was having a hard time believing what he was hearing. “Are you okay?” His eyes were wide open and scanning me.

He usually never showed such reactions, but right now, the way he was looking me over was scary.

“That’s not true,” Daphne quickly grabbed her stepfather’s arm, and he paused, staring at the connection between them. It was odd, but it did make him lean forward in his seat and shield her behind him.

“Nora! Tell me what happened?” Cain hissed. Without waiting for my reply, he grabbed his phone and rushed out of the living room while the others watched him go.

I could tell he was going to call Nash because his name was on the screen when he left the room.

“This is the issue. Your stepdaughter has been lying about her own incompetence. Nora left to speak to her boyfriend and that’s when she got herself in trouble. But she spun it around and accused Daphne of it all. And now they’ve broken up because of her,” Ford kept talking while Daphne stared at the entrance, probably wondering when Cain would return.

I bet she knew what Nash would tell his brother and how she would end up looking like a liar.

“I don’t have a boyfriend,” I groaned, wondering what was going on.

13:07

132 Her Angry Stepfather...]

11

“I suggest you two leave now. Because when my son returns, I’m not sure I can hold him back,” Lord Atwood was clenching his jaw and shaking so much that I was worried for him.

“So you think he will find out that Daphne is lying?” Ford seemed offended, but the change in Daphne’s color should have been hist

concern.

"I am sure my daughter never lies. So yeah, you are lucky I am not the one taking outrageous action against you two right now," Lord Atwood warned him. Daphne swiftly whispered something in her stepfather's ear, and he nodded to her.

"I get it. I will leave now. But know one thing, this girl is not what you think she is. She has lied to you and is still lying to you. I will be very sad the day you find out about her lies. You will be left shattered. This girl is not so innocent; she is after your sons and is sabotaging their relationships," Ford muttered as he pointed his finger at me.

"Get out!" Lord Atwood closed his eyes and grunted. I felt bad instantly but was also shocked that Ford said all that so confidently. Before Cain could return, the two had run out to avoid confrontation.

"I am so sorry you faced that," Lord Atwood couldn't even meet my eyes, which made me feel even guiltier.

To think about Ford's words, he didn't really lie. I have been hiding so much from him and had been having strange encounters with the ones Lord Atwood thinks are my stepbrothers.

"It is not your fault, and Nash was there to take care of me," I mumbled softly, feeling low in energy. "Can I go back to my room and rest?" It was a cry for some alone time. I wasn't feeling well anymore. There was this feeling of guilt that I couldn't sit and speak to Lord Atwood

anymore.

### 137—He Angry Stepfather

"Sure, please go ahead and rest," he uttered sadly. Even his forced smile was broken. I am sure he felt bad that he couldn't keep me safe from the crazy people of his pack, but at the same time, I was guilty that I had been lying so much to him.

I went upstairs to lie down and think over my actions. I have been lying to everyone about myself, my identity, and every aspect of my life.

The trust I saw in Lord Atwood's eyes today crumbled my fake confidence. What Ford said was true. The day Lord Atwood learns about my truth, he will lose belief in everything and everyone.

I changed my position and stayed in the dark. Every time a thought occurred, I shifted in bed. But then a new thought, a new guilt would take over, and I would have to change my side again. The brothers and Lord Atwood knew I wanted to be alone.

That's why when they asked me to join them for dinner, I excused myself without opening the door.

It was around 3 am when I heard a knock on my window, and my eyes shot open from the nightmare I was having. With a racing heart and heavy breaths, I sat up in bed for a few seconds before walking over to the window. I could tell who was pacing around my balcony.

“Ryker!” I frowned.

“What is going on with you? I heard you haven’t eaten anything ever since you returned,” he hunched over, glaring at me through his bushy eyebrows.

“And why do you care? Aren’t you too embarrassed by my existence anyway?” I rolled my eyes at him, not feeling like myself as I argued with him.

137 Her Angry Soplather

My energy was so low that even I was alarmed at the change in me.

“Nora! I am not embarrassed by you. I just think that is the best way to deal with things—,” he paused after recalling what exactly had brought him here tonight.

“I heard about Daphne and her stepfather. They had the nerve to accuse you, but don’t worry, we brothers have started a secret investigation against the two. We will—,” he was yammering nonstop when I couldn’t help but remember all the things going wrong and had to intervene.

“You could have waited until morning to say all that to me. You didn’t have to come here. Or did you do it because you thought I am miserable and would jump into bed with you?” I hissed bitterly, recalling his initial argument about being embarrassed by me.

I was still upset with him. He suddenly stopped talking and straightened his back.

“Okay! Goodnight,” was all he said before he stepped back and then jumped off the balcony to leave.

I stayed put, wondering if I had gone too far because I was hurting too.

Tasting 138

138—His New Crush

Nora:

“Good morning, how are you, Nora?” Lord Atwood smiled oddly as he watched me walk downstairs to join them for breakfast.

School was another issue I had to deal with at the moment. It wasn't like I could get past all these problems and spend one day in peace. My own secrets being exposed was another reason I had been so worried.

"I am fine," I gave him a weak smile, walking over to the breakfast table where only Silas was present.

"Where is everyone else?" I inquired, taking a seat.

"Nash is busy with that prisoner, Ryker hasn't returned home after last night, and Cain is in his studio," Lord Atwood said, after giving me the whereabouts of his sons, and started filling my plate with omelet and

toast.

"Cain is not going to have breakfast with us?" I was concerned because the last I saw him was when he got up to call Nash. I wondered what happened afterward.

"He is not in the mood," Lord Atwood replied slyly

"Dad! Are we not going to address what happened on the trip?" Silas finally had the time to focus on us after he was done gulping down the juice in front of him.

"I think it is for the best that we don't," Lord Atwood eyed him, making me swiftly turn to share a glance with Silas.

13 New Chuch

"Wait, what happened? I want to be a part of that conversation since it is related to me," I insisted and noticed Lord Atwood shaking his head slightly

"You have already dealt with it, and I don't want you to go through all of that again. Even a little mention of it yesterday made you lock yourself in your bedroom. Let's just leave that issue for Cain and Ryker to handle," Lord Atwood mumbled, his attention breaking from me when his phone rang.

"Excuse me! You start eating," he waved his hand at me sweetly before excusing himself. Now it was just the two of us.

"Did she push you off?" Silas asked out of the blue. My grip on the fork tightened, but I decided to avoid him. I remembered my own commitment, and I was planning on sticking to it.

"I asked you something," he cleared his throat, putting down his glass. with a little thud to get my attention.

However, that didn't make me respond to him. I continued eating as if he didn't exist.

"Can you mature up? This is a serious conversation that has us all

worried for you," the minute he included himself in the list of people who were worried for me, I let out a scoff, and he went silent before groaning.

"Fine. If you don't want to talk about it, I will do something about it myself. Don't cry about the outcome then," he said, slamming his fist on the table, and left with much anger and frustration.

His words did bother me. What did he mean by saying he would do something on his own?

### 136 His New Crush

Is he even on my side, or does he believe that I lied to sabotage Nash's relationship just like the way Ford had been insinuating?

After finishing my breakfast and finding out that I was the only one left behind with Cain for the day, I thought about paying him a visit. I heard from his father that he hadn't eaten since yesterday.

Making my way to his studio, I expected him to be mad at me. Otherwise, why would he skip his meals? Maybe he thinks I am in the wrong for ruining Nash's relationship with Daphne. Could it be that he has a soft spot for Daphne?

I shook my head as I stood before his door, closing my eyes to clear these thoughts from my mind. Lately, I have been losing myself. These thoughts were getting increasingly frustrating. I could tell from the doubts and fears reappearing in my life that if I didn't let my wolf come out and transition fully, I might lose my mind. Then the transition will happen out of the blue, and I will be left with much damage.

"I didn't know you could sleep while standing." Cain's soft murmur broke my attention, and I opened my eyes to realize he had opened the door and had been watching me stand before his studio like a fool.

"How are you?" I blurted out to avoid the awkwardness, and he raised his brow at me.

"I am fine, thank you," he replied a bit mockingly. "Why didn't you leave your room yesterday?" There was a hint of authority in his voice. as he demanded I answer him.

"I was tired from the journey and—the whole Daphne thing really messed up my mind." I exclaimed, sighing while he stood casually until he decided to show me how easily he could manhandle me.



“Yeah, let’s talk about it,” he grabbed the collar of my black shirt and

138- Now Crush

dragged me inside with him.

Once we were in his studio, as always, he pulled me up on the stool, making me sit there while he hunched over me with his hands on the table behind my stool.

“Why didn’t you go to school?” he inquired with a stern look on his

face.

“I didn’t feel like it. Although I did wake up with a mission to go to school-,” I pouted, recalling how I thought going to school would be a good idea and then lost interest the very next moment.

“Quit yammering,” he hissed. “Now tell me, did Daphne push you?” he asked.

Wow! He was so stern and stubborn.

“I am not sure. I do remember being pushed, but so much happened in those few minutes that I could be wrong.” I sighed.

“Hmm! But she instigated you into fetching water from the nonexistent river?” he asked, and before he could even finish his question, I was nodding my head aggressively.

“That I remember vividly,” I said confidently.

“She is going to get what’s coming to her. And as for you-,” he pointed his finger at my chest, making me narrow my eyes at him. “Quit getting into trouble and letting others make a fool out of you,” he frowned. “Peer pressure shouldn’t work on you.”

All I could do was nod my head like an obedient student.

“Why didn’t you eat anything yesterday?” I watched him tilt his head,

138 His New Crush

responding with a little eyebrow raise to my question.

“I was not in the mood. You can go on and do whatever you want to do today,” he stepped away and waved his hand at me.

That’s when my eyes landed on the canvas behind him. It was a new painting of a gorgeous woman in a veil.

“Who is she?” I inquired.

I wouldn’t have thought too deeply of it had he not responded the way he did, “She doesn’t concern you. Go back to your room.”

Tasting 139

139—Caught By My Stepbrother

Nora:

“But who is she?” I asked again as curiosity hit me hard. This had never happened before—he had never painted a model and kept her in the middle of the studio like that. I didn’t only get curious but jealous.

too.

“I saw her in my dreams,” he replied finally, his hand gently caressing the frame of the canvas. Her face was covered, but there was a black. net over her breasts and vagina, making them visible through the mesh.

“And you painted her?” I frowned.

“She came into my dreams many times. Any more questions?” he inquired, sounding tired.

“No!” I scoffed. “You know what? If you don’t want me in your studio, I will not step in here again,” I hissed as I felt like he was trying to push me out.

“Okay! I can’t force you to come here. Do as you please,” he murmured without taking his eyes off the canvas.

I couldn’t believe he went from talking about how I was the only model he had felt something for to staring at some girl from his dreams and avoiding me.

I watched his back for a few seconds in disbelief before storming out of his studio and heading to my room in anger.

“What an asshole,” I groaned, jumping onto the bed.

139 Caught By My Stepbrother

My cellphone beeped, making me get up again. Seeing Brody’s name on the screen raised my brow. I hoped he wasn’t going to ask me for at date again because this time, I had to give him an answer.

“Hey.” I answered the call, lying back in my bed and staring at the ceiling.

“You didn’t come to school today. Are you okay?” he questioned.

“Yep!” I replied, breathing calmly

“I was actually calling to see if we could meet up. I’m right next to your mansion, so maybe we can have tea in your royal garden?” he teased, and a smile spread across my lips.

I mean, he was nice enough to always pay attention to me. Besides, he was the only one who had checked up on me. Not even April messaged or called me today.

“Sure, come to the door, and I’ll let you in.” I said as I swiftly jumped out of bed to throw on a black top and black pants.

Rushing downstairs, I saw him enter the mansion and head towards the garden.

“Mia! Can you please bring us some snacks?” I yelled to be heard by Mia, who rushed out of the kitchen, nodded to me, and then disappeared back into the kitchen.

Now I was in the garden, approaching Brody, who had on a black shirt and pants, matching me.

“Wow! Are you copying me?” he teased, raising his brow and holding a little teddy bear in his hand.

139 Caught By My Stepbrother

“Hey! You copied me because you’re so impressed with me.” I teased back, making him laugh softly.

“A teddy bear!” A wide smile covered my lips because I knew he had brought it for me. Otherwise, why would he be walking around with a teddy bear?

“Is it for me?” I pointed a finger at my chest, and he instantly shook his head, hiding the teddy behind his back.

“No! It’s for Lord Atwood,” he smiled widely, watching me pout. After he had made me look at him in fake anger, he finally brought the teddy out from behind his back and gave it to me.

“He’s so fluffy,” I commented in a childish tone.

“And you are so cute,” his comment made my smile disappear. I knew how he saw me. He was interested in me and wanted to date me. But I was so stuck with the mess at the mansion that I was losing such a great potential guy.

“Ah! The snacks are here. Mia makes the best tea and cookies,” I commented as I offered him a seat.

Once we sat down and Mia served us the tea, she walked away, leaving just the two of us again.

“Why didn’t you come to school?” he asked me the same question once again.

“I was tired from the journey yesterday,” I replied. As I sipped my tea, I noticed him frown in bewilderment.

So I assumed the brothers hadn’t told anyone about the journey to the forbidden town.

139—Caught By My Stepbrother

“What journey?” he inquired.

I began to dip the cookies in my tea to avoid looking into his eyes as I lied. “Just went out with the brothers and Lord Atwood.”

I felt bad, but some things aren’t just my secret—they are related to the missions the brothers go on and that I cannot share with anyone else.

“Oh, I thought you and April made some plans. She also didn’t come to school today,” Brody was the only one who informed me about what was going on at school. Other than him, I had lost contact with everyone else.

Natalya didn’t contact me, and. I didn’t message her either. But April not contacting me was a bit odd.

“Why? Did you ask her?” I asked in confusion and intrigue.

“No! I mean, I did, but she never responded to me. I spoke to her family, and they said she was fine. So I guess she just wants to be left alone?” he squeezed his eyes a little, unable to come up with a reason for her sudden strange behavior.

“Maybe,” I groaned.

“Okay! I will go now. I only came to see you. Take care of yourself, and I will see you in school,” he made sure to let me know he didn’t come here to make me uncomfortable by asking me about the question he had posed.

I had nothing but a comforting smile for him as I hugged the teddy and watched him go.

The minute he left the mansion, I saw Ryker drive into the house. He stopped the car only to get out and watch Brody get in his car and

139–Caught By My Stepbrother

drive away. The way he was examining him before he turned to glare at me sent shivers down my spine.

140–He Is Possessive

Nora:

I watched Ryker briskly walk towards me, causing me to gulp and step back. It was obvious he wasn't coming for a pleasant conversation. Despite my anger over our previous conversation, I was fearful.

He didn't even say another word before he snatched the teddy out of my hands and slammed it on the ground. It all happened so abruptly that I forgot to react to his actions.

The next thing I knew, he was stomping on the teddy until he had completely demolished it.

"What are you doing?" I pushed him once I got my senses back, but he shrugged my hands off him. After completely destroying the teddy, he hunched over me with his finger in my face.

"If I see you with him again, Nora!" His finger wagged up and down in front of my face. "I will not show any mercy to the two of you. And don't let him bring anything into this mansion, you hear me?" He screamed at the top of his lungs, making me step back and watch him through blurred vision.

I had never seen him so angry before, but he had no right to treat me this way.

"You and I are nothing–," I stuttered in a broken voice when he snapped his fingers in my face to get my attention.

"Because of you. Because you cannot make a choice. If you do as I say, we will be together the next minute, but you are so thick in your skull,"

Tasting 140

140–He is Possessi

he groaned angrily, his eyes showing the anger he had towards me.

Thankfully, somebody rushed out to grab him away from me.

“What are you doing?” Cain pushed him back, stepping between us.

“Ask her. Ask her why she was sitting here with that asshole of an alpha and accepting gifts from him!” Ryker pointed at the broken teddy and then at me.

Cain heard him out before turning around to confront me.

“What is he saying? Who was here?” Cain frowned.

“That Brody. He asked her out twice, and she kept delaying her response. Do you mind asking her why? If she is your mate, why is she entertaining others?” Ryker kept going, making my heart flip inside my chest.

I told him about Brody, and he used it to rile Cain up against me.

And it worked, because the way Cain looked at me was like he had caught me in bed with Brody,

“What is he saying? You were here accepting gifts from someone else?” Cain asked in a polite voice, but the clenching of his jaw was a hint that he was not at all pleased with what he was hearing.

“He is my friend. I can do that. If you can dream about someone from your dreams and be embarrassed of me, I can do whatever I want. I am not bound to you or accepted by you.” I didn’t even know what I was saying, but I pointed a finger at Cain and he narrowed his eyes at me.

are

“But you know we mates. So does that mean if we haven’t accepted each other, we can do whatever we please?” he asked, straightening his

140 Possession

back to face me. Ryker had stepped away and started running his hands through his hair after messing things up for me.

I looked back into Cain’s eyes, expecting someone to intervene, but when no one did, I was left with no option but to respond.

“Isn’t it like that?”

He stared back and then slowly nodded his head.

“Okay!” he shrugged, but there was a threat in his eyes.

“That’s enough. You need to learn to respect the rules of this mansion. Now go back to your room and let your friend know not to come here. again,” Ryker yelled at me, pointing his finger at me.

I contemplated if I should argue more, but the way he was huffing and puffing was a sign that if I didn’t give up, this argument would turn ugly. Stomping my foot while not breaking eye contact, I rushed back into the mansion and to my bedroom, making sure I was as loud as I could be when I slammed the door shut.

“Fuck Ryker!” I grunted at Akira, letting her know this one mate was now getting on my nerves.

“How would you have reacted if you had found your mate with someone else, accepting gifts and enjoying tea and snacks?” Unexpectedly, I heard Akira trying to justify his actions.

“Are

you serious right now? Did you not see how he behaved with me?” I yelled at her as well.

“You never answered me. How would you react?” she continued to ask.

“I would respond aggressively only if I’m not the reason we are not

140 Ho Passessive

together. Ryker is the one who doesn’t want to accept me until I have rejected Cain and said no to Brody. He even wants me to hide the fact that we are fated mates because he is embarrassed of me. Don’t the wrong in him?” Finally, after explaining it well to her, I heard her

groan.

you see

“You are right. I don’t know why he is embarrassed of us,” the hurt in her voice made me calm down. I didn’t want her to suffer as she was already dealing with the captivity.

She was a prisoner in me, with the ring being the torture.

“I don’t know. Maybe his ego is playing a big part in it. He doesn’t want to accept someone who has multiple mates. He wants someone who is not mated to someone else at the same time,” I groaned as that seemed to be the only plausible explanation for why he couldn’t accept

1. me.

“But I thought when somebody loves you, they accept you no matter what,” she was on point.

That is what made me wonder if Ryker even loved me like that.

“He is just afraid of losing a mate because it took them years to find one. I don’t want to give up so much for someone who can’t even let go of his ego for me,” I decided, trying to find solace in my life after these brothers have turned it upside down.

## **Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates #Tasting 141 - Read Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates Tasting 141**

Tasting 141

141–His Hand In His Pants

Nora:

I didn’t leave the room again, and neither did the brothers come to see me. After hours of fuming with anger, I finally grew impatient and was ready to leave. However, Lord Atwood had already planned something for me.

There was a knock on the door, and when I opened it. I found Lord Atwood standing outside with a tray of food.

“I heard you were skipping meals again,” he smiled, entering my bedroom with enough food for two people.

I couldn’t believe he was planning to eat here with me. What did I do to deserve someone like him in my life?

“I was just not feeling like eating anything.” I said, hating that he was caught up in all this drama without knowing why.

“Oh, so when I feast with you, I’m sure you’ll feel hungry,” he said with a bright smile that shattered my heart..



"I'm sure that will happen," I nodded, sitting down on the bed with him but taking over when it came to serving the food.

"What is going on, Nora? Are the brothers giving you a hard time? If so, I hope you'll let me know," he insisted, looking at me so intently, as if he didn't want to miss any reaction that might help him understand what was going on with me.

"No! It's not that. I'm just overwhelmed these days with everything," I

lied, anxiously rubbing my palms together.

"Is school going well?" Lord Atwood asked, tilting his head while slowly adjusting to eat.

"Yeah!" I lied again, slurping on the noodles.

Since I had left the door open. I didn't really expect any visitors, but sure enough, someone had seen Lord Atwood come to my room.

"You're not going to cat with us. Dad?" Cain intervened, not even stepping into the room.

"No! I will eat here with my daughter." Lord Atwood mumbled, getting a nod from Cain..

I sneakily looked behind Lord Atwood at Cain, who was leaning against the doorframe and staring blankly at me. I could tell he had something to say but kept silent and left. After Dad and I finished. dinner, the maid grabbed the dishes and left.

Lord Atwood also left the room, but I was now considering having a talk with Cain. I didn't know where we stood. I needed to know what was going on and what their plans were regarding me. And for that, a conversation was a must.

After midnight, when I was certain he would be in his studio, I left my room and, as always, found his studio door open. Peering inside, I didn't expect much but to find him shirtless and painting something on the canvas. But I was mistaken! I had intervened at the wrong time.

He was sitting on his chair, his shirt messily raised, and his hands in his pants. A lump formed in my throat when I realized he was busy pleasuring himself. He closed his eyes and leaned his head back, grunting, "It is bad manners."

141 His Hand in His Pants

My body jumped, but I was quick enough to compose myself and look away.

"I was just hoping to have a conversation with you. But I guess I came at the wrong time," I mumbled under my breath, quickly stepping back, but his voice stopped me.

"You can come in." he said.

But you're occupied, and I can see you don't plan to stop anytime soon," I muttered with a puzzled expression as I observed him not even withdrawing his hand from his pants.

"Isn't it inappropriate that I want to have a serious conversation with you while you're...pleasuring yourself?" I murmured, averting my gaze because he looked so imposing with his long legs spread and his body reclined.

His sun-kissed skin made me gulp and clench my jaw.

"Just admit that you wouldn't be able to focus on anything else. Then, okay, you can return later, hours later," he remarked, his eyes darkening as they met mine.

"Aha! You're good at teasing. I wouldn't get distracted," the competitive part of me, always striving to win and refusing to

acknowledge that it's normal to feel something in a situation like that, was bound to be my downfall someday.

"Oh, really?" he retorted with a scoff.

"Yes!" I replied, unsure of what would happen next. I thought I would just make a statement like that and then retreat to my bedroom, but he was one step ahead of me.

#### 14- Hand in His Parts

"Then why don't you come inside—ahhhh—so we can have that serious conversation—ugh," his eyes rolled back, and his breath quickened, mirroring my own.

I shut my eyes to shield his view before nodding in agreement.

"Sure!" I foolishly stepped inside. Right from that moment, I should have realized that he had won.

As I entered the studio, I watched him slowly lower his pants to adjust his clothing a bit.

I wanted to bring up something from earlier," I began, crossing my arms over my chest and averting my gaze.

The painting was no longer in the center of the studio, which was a relief.

“There’s nothing to discuss—you’re not to communicate with Brody again,” he snapped, closing his eyes in annoyance before eventually relaxing and changing the subject.

“But why? Who am I holding back for?” I inquired, noticing that he had stopped even opening his eyes.

“Hello?” I grumbled, observing him subtly shifting his hips. A strange desire washed over me as his eyes remained shut, allowing me to admire every inch of his body without being caught.

He looked incredibly attractive in that moment.

His muscles were well-defined, and his veins stood out. There was a peculiar sense of ease in his presence, yet also a strong sense of desire that I couldn’t tear my eyes away from. As I gazed at his

disheveled shirt and visible abs, I realized he was right.

141 His Hand In His PANTS

I craved that.

“You know what, let me take care of it so we can continue our conversation,” the excuse slipped out of my mouth, causing him to snap his eyes open.

h

Tasting 142

142–Do Me Rough.

Nora:

now

He was now gazing at me as I approached him and knelt down. When I placed my hand on his pants, he grasped my wrist. It felt like he had halted me, and the sudden shock hit me. However, instead of scolding me, he gently placed his finger under my chin and lifted my face towards him.

“I am not someone who wants to constantly put someone in restraints,” he started talking in a much more serious tone this time. I knew he was talking about Brody.

“But I do get jealous, Nora. I just don’t show it,” he finished but remained silent only for a few seconds.

“You are important to me, Nora. You are my mate, Nora. I don’t want to share you with anyone. The thought of you and Brody has stirred up a storm inside me. So, tell me, assure me that there is nothing going on between the two of you,” he said with a serious tone, demanding

answers.

It was somewhat understandable. He wanted to discuss it and was giving me a chance to respond to him.

“There is nothing going on between the two of us,” I confirmed, and the tension on his face eased.

“Why haven’t you given him an answer till now?” He continued to talk about the same topic about me and Brody.

“I guess I just didn’t know if you took me seriously,” I am sure my

142.Do Me Bough

response was a bit wobbly but thankfully, he understood and didn’t use it against me for keeping someone on the side.

“Has there been anyone else from the time I found you as my mate until now?” he continued, and I pondered on it.

“No!” I shook my head since Ryker wasn’t taking me seriously anyway.

“Brody is just a friend—” as I tried to explain, Cain silenced me by placing his finger on my lips.

“That’s all I needed to hear. I will inform Ryker not to question your friendship with Brody again. I trust you,” he murmured sweetly, surprising me with his level of understanding.

He then made me stand up and sit on his lap. It was new but also incredibly enticing.

“I couldn’t eat or sleep after you told me that Daphne tried to kill you.. During that restless time, I kept wondering what if Nash had been late? I would have lost my mind, Nora,” he spoke softly, in seductive whispers. His hands caressed my back and thigh, causing me to shyly lower my head.

“Don’t put your life at risk, Nora. You have no idea how hard it was for me to find happiness,” he spoke strangely, but everything indicated his sincerity towards me.

“I didn’t realize you cared,” I said with a pout.

He chuckled to himself before suddenly lifting me in his arms.

“I may not show it, but that doesn’t mean I don’t care. You’re the only one I want to be with, so you better stay alive,” his playful tone as he carried me to his bedroom caught my attention.

142 Do Me Rough

“Oh! and here I was thinking you are a cold hearted alpha king.” I spoke shyly because him taking me to his bedroom meant we were going far tonight.

I could sense his arousal, as he had been in the middle of something important when I interrupted, but now he was including me in the mix.

I only glanced for a moment, as he gently placed me on his bed and stood beside it, his head down and his hand slowly moving over his abs, sliding up and down beneath his shirt, revealing his toned muscles.

Then, he lowered his pants slightly, revealing his warrior, the erect soldier. I no longer desired to argue or engage in any other

conversation.

I gasped as he climbed on top of me and positioned himself between my legs. A mix of shyness and desire coursed through me. I raised myself and kissed his lips. As I savored the sweetness of his juicy lips; his hands undressed me, leaving me with nothing but a throbbing desire

My hands explored his body, lifting his shirt and tossing it over his head. That was the only moment he broke the kiss. Our tongues danced as he lay on top of me, my legs wrapped tightly around his back.

His hard member pressed against me, igniting a craving in my core.

My body writhed as he broke the kiss, his hand moving between us to guide his member to my eager center. My eyes rolled back as he slipped on a condom and teased my entrance with his hardness. Goosebumps covered my skin as the tip of his member entered me, causing a sudden ache.

However, he quickly adjusted to be gentle. Slowly, he pushed further

142 Do Me Rough

inside, a mix of pain and pleasure overwhelming me. He paused to ensure my comfort before starting a rhythmic thrusting.

With each thrust, he groaned loudly. His movements were wild and rough, almost overwhelming. He turned me around, lifting my legs so half of my back was in the air. Standing on the bed, he positioned himself at my entrance again, entering me with a primal intensity.

He ravished me with each thrust, my body contorted in pleasure. I couldn't help but moan as he continued his assault. His pace quickened until he released in the condom, then turned me around for another round from behind. My core tightened around him, but he persisted, thrusting in and out like a heated blade.

After hours of his passionate assault, he climaxed in the fifth condom. He turned me around once more, collapsing on top of me. We both breathed heavily. There was a this moment when our eyes met during sex, and I saw a glimmer in his eyes. Was he crying, or was it the exhaustion from our intense encounter?

"I'm so lucky to have you as my mate," I teased, running my fingers through his hair. He remained silent, not uttering a single word throughout our time together.

148 Making Ryker Jealous.

Tasting 143

143—Making Ryker Jealous

Nora:

I drifted off to sleep after we finished. He wrapped his arms around me tightly for a few minutes before gently releasing his hold.

I noticed his departure, but I was too tired and comfortable to bother seeking his closeness again. Maybe he needed some space.

In the early hours of the morning, I woke up to the sensation of an empty bed beside me. As I shifted and reached out, finding the bed deserted, I couldn't help but rub my eyes, breaking my slumber.

"Cain?" I called out, but he seemed to be absent from the bedroom. His usual bathroom was in the studio, so I assumed he must have been there.

After waiting a bit longer, I came to the realization that he wasn't returning. I also knew that soon everyone would wake up, making it difficult for me to sneak back to my bedroom unnoticed.

So, I rolled out of bed and got dressed. It was clear that these brothers were quite rough. My back was aching, as was my vagina. Cain had been quite forceful and passionate last night. I should have realized he was feeling particularly lustful.

Even the memory of his words made me giggle. Stepping out of the bedroom and hurrying back to my room, I found the studio empty as

well.

That was unusual. He never left his studio unlocked like that.

Thankfully, he had closed the bedroom door before leaving. Not that

143—Making Pyker Jealous

anyone would wander into his studio, but still, even a one percent. chance could be risky for us.

As time passed and he remained elusive, I dashed out and made it back. to my room just in time. I took a quick shower, got ready for school, and as I was leaving my room, I noticed some messages on my phone from Ryker.

I rolled my eyes, knowing I would lash out at him the moment we talked, but his message already left me in shock.

R: You are going to tell Brody today that you are severing all the contacts with him.

I frowned.

ing to take

R: I am going to take you under my team today.

I hissed under my breath, seething with anger at the fact that instead of apologizing, he was still making demands?

I began to angrily type a message for him, something I wouldn't have dared to say to his face.

Me: After how you humiliated me and behaved with me last night, you seriously think you get to make demands?

Me: And don't even try to change my teams, I won't be in your team.

I hissed, shaking my head. But little did I know, he was sitting with his phone in his hands. His response came pretty quickly.

R: You are really making me wonder.

I narrowed my eyes and kept staring at the screen. He typed for some time but then never sent it. I didn't bother asking again because I was

143—Making Ryker Jealous.

running late for school.

I left the room to join everyone at the dinner table, but there was one person missing.

Cain!

“Good morning,” I greeted, earning a smile from Lord Atwood.

“How are you now?” Nash asked curiously. I hadn't seen him since the whole trip.

“I am good now. How are you? How is your mission going?” I asked, excitedly, and he gave me a pleasant head nod to indicate everything was going fine.

While I communicated with Nash, I tried to avoid looking Ryker's way because he was just staring at me with so much anger in his eyes that it made me uncomfortable.

“Where is Cain?” Silas inquired, who I had been completely avoiding ever since the party.

“I don't know. I was told by the guards that he left in the early morning with alcohol,” Lord Atwood seemed disappointed when delivering the

news.

“Is he crazy or what? We have back-to-back meetings today, and he planned an alcohol trip for himself?” Nash's mood changed almost instantly.

The two would butt heads quite often, but it was indeed concerning what I was hearing. He was fine last night, so what the hell happened to him?

“It is okay. He will return. He is a responsible one,” Lord Atwood

1:43 Making Ryker Jealous

uttered, trying to diffuse the situation, but the head shake from Nash was a sign that he wasn't satisfied.

“Nora! Ryker will drop you to school. But try to come straight back home today. There have been some rumors about some unusual activity in the pack. So unless it is entirely safe, it has been recommended that the students come home directly and with some



responsible adult,” Lord Atwood delivered the news that I would have to face Ryker now, who seemed to have been sitting all set for that moment.

I couldn't even ask for someone else to drop me. Nash was busy worrying about Cain, and Silas was another forbidden story. I did not plan to ever ask for his help again.

So all I was left with was to give Lord Atwood a head nod.

However, the minute I had grabbed my belongings and left for the main exit, I watched a car that I recognized to be Brody's.

“Hey! Good morning,” he came out with a bright smile on his lips.

I felt bad for him because he had no clue what happened to the gift he had brought for me yesterday.

Then I remembered what Cain had said. He was okay with my friendship with Brody and even believed me. So why was Ryker, the one who didn't even want to talk about us unless I had listened to all his demands, making rules about who I should and shouldn't meet?

“Hello, what are you doing here so early in the morning?” I approached him, looking around and finding Ryker's bike empty. He was not around, which is why I got to even speak to Brody.

“I heard about the whole danger thing and I wondered how amazing it would be to drop you off to school myself today. What do you say?” he

143–Making Ryker Jealous

questioned, a smile never leaving his lips.

I stayed silent, watching him and then at Ryker, who was just coming out of the mansion when he spotted us together.

Part of me wanted Ryker to feel comfortable, but the other part wanted him to understand that he cannot just expect so much from me when he doesn't even want to go official with me.

So I did what I thought was the best decision in the moment.

“Sure. I would like to go with you.”

Tasting 144

144–The Rejected Alpha

Nora:

Ryker stayed seething while I climbed into the car with Brody. It was only after the car hit the road that I felt guilty about my actions. I wasn't helping our relationship in any way either. But we weren't even official yet.

"Okay! You are anxious. What is going on?" Brody finally pointed out how many times I had adjusted in my seat and sighed.

"Nothing," I faked a smile.

"Come on, is it about us?" he questioned, and my body twitched. Oh shit! It definitely involved him but in a very weird way.

"Actually—," I adjusted myself again, and he laughed, making me shut

1. up.

"Calm down. We can talk about it once we get to school," he said, and I realized today was going to be the day when I made a decision. It couldn't just act like a flirt and string men along. I understood that I wasn't official with either of the brothers, but at least I knew what I wanted and who I wanted as a romantic partner.

While I had felt some connection with Brody in the beginning, that sexual tension had faded after my encounters with the brothers. My body and my wolf were feeling them and their scents too much these days. And it made me realize that even if the brothers didn't accept me, it's not like I was going to jump into Brody's arms next.

14-4—The Rejected Alpha

I would rather live my life and do what I am supposed to do. That should have been my goal from the start, but I got distracted. Once we arrived at the school, we stayed in the car, and I reckoned this is where he wanted to have a word with me.

"Look! I know I am being pushy, but I need to know the answer so that I can understand what you want," he sighed as he leaned back.

"And trust me, I will be very understanding. I won't ask you to shift to my pack instantly. I will give you time to continue your studies here. and accept me whenever you are ready. We can date first, and trust me, you will see how happy I can make you," the fact that he was already thinking I would say yes scared me a little.

I mean, his words made me wonder if my delaying this conversation. had given him mixed signals. I felt so guilty as I lowered my head and sighed deeply. He was now watching my face. I was certain about it. And I feared looking up and meeting his gaze.

“Brody, you are a nice guy,” I started, taking calm breaths and fidgeting with my fingers at the same time.

“And I will show you my best side. I will be the best chosen mate as well,” he continued, making it so hard for me to break his heart and crush his hopes. Maybe Ryker was right in saying that I had delayed this conversation too long.

“Brody, I don’t want to do it,” I mumbled, before explaining, “I don’t feel that way towards you.”

As I finished, his lack of response finally prompted me to lift my head and look at him. He was watching me in disbelief, almost like he was waiting for me to say I was joking or something.

“It’s just that—maybe you should look for a fated mate. You are a nice.

144 The Rejected Alpha

guy and you deserve someone who feels the same way towards you,” I began to ramble now that he was just watching my face.

“Wait a minute. What are you saying? You’re not attracted to me? Since when?” The frown on his forehead and the confidence in his voice, as if I was changing my decision, kind of came as a shock.

“What?” I asked, confused.

“Since when did you stop feeling for me?” he asked again, and my frown grew bigger.

“What are you talking about? I don’t know how to answer this question. without hurting your feelings,” I mumbled awkwardly.

“Nora, you

Were

going to date me, so what changed?” This time, he sounded stern and looked a little disappointed with my response.

“Huh? What makes you think I was going to say yes—oh, all the delays?” I sighed, slapping my forehead and feeling responsible for his pain. But he shook his head instantly, dismissing my conclusion, making me furrow my eyebrows.

“You maybe told your friend—a certain someone—that you were going out on a date with me. Why would you say that only to say no?” He didn’t raise his voice, but the pain in it was so much that I sat back and just watched him look at me.

I wanted to comfort him, but I was also confused about what he was saying until I recalled a conversation I had with a friend.

“Natalya? She told you that?” I gasped, and he clenched his jaw, turning straight and putting his hands on the steering wheel even though he didn’t plan to start the car again.

54.037

144 The Rejected Alpha

”

“I—oh my goodness, why would she do that?” I was so shocked. She went ahead and told him about my conversation with her? But for what?

“I don’t know. But I do want to know what made you change your mind. What did I do wrong—or—” The sudden pause from him with his frown intensifying made me gulp a little. “Did your brothers tell your not to date me?” he asked, narrowing his eyes at my face.

As soon as I gulped, he nodded his head and hit the steering wheel, causing my body to jump a little.

“It’s not like that. I honestly don’t feel—” I shut up because how do I tell him why I said yes to Natalya about going out on a date with him?

My heart was pounding so hard as I felt cornered but also betrayed.

“Brody, I am so sorry,” not having a response made things worse. He must feel like I was such a liar.

“It’s okay. I will be fine,” he forced himself to calm down but never

looked my way again. It hurt me, but he had already sped away to park looked my way again. It hurt me, but he

the car in the parking lot, so there was no hope left for another word with him.

Tasting 145

145–The Beginning Of My Downfall

Nora:

I didn't want to face Brody again today, but I'm sure I will have to since we will be training together. Not only that, but I'll also have to deal with Ryker, who must be furious with me for leaving with Brody in the morning.

It felt like I had dug my own grave everywhere. Why the heck did I even talk to Natalya about Brody and me going out on a date? Why couldn't I just tell her to mind her own business?

Sighing, I reached the school hallway and noticed eyes on me. It was a bit different today. There were many students in the hallway, but their attention to me was frightening. They seemed to stare at me and then whisper in each other's ears. Some of the girls even wrinkled their noses as they checked me out from head to toe. I noticed I wasn't wearing anything bad, so why were they staring at me like that? I was wearing brown pocket trousers and a green tank top with my hair in a high ponytail.

Avoiding their gazes, I continued my journey to the lockers. One specific comment got to me and shook my world when a girl passing by hissed, "Such a whore. You know incest is a crime, right?"

My heart skipped a beat, and my steps halted beyond my control. I watched her swiftly get away so she couldn't be questioned. But I know I heard her clearly, and she accused me of something that had been such a scare to me.

I looked around at the others, and their disgusting gazes only suggested they were probably on the same page as her.

0.00%

1100

145–The Beginning of My Downfall

"What is going on?" I asked myself, gulping with difficulty. My mouth was turning dry at this point. Soon the bell rang, and everyone had to disappear.

I had no choice but to attend the classes, knowing that something horrible had been cooking behind my back.

As I entered the room, I looked around to spot my friends but found the seats next to both April and Natalya filled. The sight of Natalya bothered me. I had a huge suspicion about her. I reached for one of the spare seats next to an omega girl and had only just sat down when she abruptly rose from her seat with her books in her hands.

"What is it, Sally?" the new teacher, Livia Jet, asked the girl, watching her squirm in discomfort.

“Can I please sit somewhere else?” the girl asked in a timid voice. Sally was always the silent one. She would barely pick fights or argue with anyone, so seeing her react like that to me trying to sit next to her shocked me.

I noticed Natalya lifting her head to acknowledge what was happening before she tilted it and looked down again. She was doodling in her notebook.

No! My suspicions were not wrong. She must have been behind this whole mess. Something very scary was going on. The way everyone was so disgusted with me worried me.

“Okay! You can go sit over there,” the teacher said, looking a bit clueless. I assumed it was only the students who were acting up then.

I was going crazy. Throughout the school periods, I could not focus on what the teachers were teaching us. My mind was blocked by the glares everyone around me was giving me. When the last period came,

276

13.10

145–The Beginning of My Downl

where we were supposed to go for the combat classes, I decided I would speak to April and ask her what was going on.

If Natalya had done something wrong, April would definitely know. Running after her, I tried to catch up, but she had already disappeared into the changing room with her friends. I stayed outside, rubbing my palms anxiously and wondering if I wanted to go in among such a crowd.

Since I was half sure something was wrong, I couldn't confront the answers directly. But after some time passed. I was left with no option but to enter the changing room and face everyone. Thankfully, they had all changed and were ready to leave.

But not before, one by one, they bumped into me, pushing me back and back.

“Hey!” I complained, rubbing my shoulder.

Natalya was quick enough to sneak out with the other girls, but I did get a chance to block April's path to have a word with her.

“April! Oh my Goddess, I have been looking to speak to you since. morning.” I said, showing enthusiasm and curiosity.

“Hmm? About what?” The tone she used was not the one she had been using with me ever since she found out I am a stepsister of the alpha king brothers.

“Why are you talking like that with me?” I inquired carefully, examining her expressions as she rolled her eyes at me.

“I am not doing anything. Of course, you are used to everyone talking sweetly and romantically with you. So you are feeling odd about my tone,” the blunt look she gave me and the tone she used made it

56.04%

13:10

145 The Beginning Of My Downt

obvious that it was a taunt. She was mocking me.

“April! If something has been said, I would like for you to come to me to clear it up first,” my eyes were slowly getting watery from the fear in my body. It felt like I was lying to everyone with so much confidence. that even I teared up thinking if Natalya said something, she would be lying. Would she be lying, though?

“Why? Is there anything that I need to know?” she folded her arms over her chest and tapped her foot on the ground.

“Anyway, I have to go. I am not like you who gets to avoid any training or mess because she has everyone wrapped around her tiny dirty finger,” she made it clear when she hissed at me that she was no longer on my side.

But I wanted to know what was said about me. What did Natalya do?

But April walked away, leaving me with unanswered questions.

13:10

Tasting 146

146–Character Assasination

Nora:

After changing, I headed to the ground with so many thoughts and fears. There was this brief moment where I wondered if I should even attend the combat class. Everything was falling apart for me.

Once I reached the ground, I saw everyone disperse when I got near them. Soon, I wasn't even allowed to stand in the same line as them. I looked ahead and saw that there was no teacher on the ground. Even Ryker and Brody were not present, which made things worse because the longer they took to attend the combat class, the more time these students would have to bully me. And I was so right.

The minute I stood alone where the line used to be, I felt someone's hand on my back, pushing me forward. I landed on the ground without having any idea this was going to happen to me. It all happened abruptly, and since being introduced as the Alpha King's stepsister, I had forgotten about the whole bullying thing.

I was getting the best treatment, so I was truly scared to find out what had changed.

"Look at this slut," it was none other than April who had pushed me down.

"April! What are you doing?" I screamed, tearing up in front of everyone as it was now a showtime for them.

I knew in that moment that I was given a chance to escape, but I foolishly stayed, and now I was going to face this mess.

13:107

145 Character Assassination

April's friend, one of the two sisters, stepped forward with some sheets in her hands.

"Look everyone! What I got," she smirked, waving the papers. "This slut over here is Nora!" she pointed at me while April stood with her arms folded over her chest.

I looked around and noticed everyone nodding their heads. As I attempted to get up, I was pushed down again by Lillie, Minnie's sister.

"Sit down here. You are going to listen to it all. You cannot have fun all the time. Karma has finally arrived for you," she muttered under her breath, making others nod in agreement.

"What is going on?" I yelled, feeling surrounded by so many of them. If I could show my wolf, I could have jumped free, but I didn't want to add another thing to the mix that made me look like a horrible person.

"What is going on? Guys, she wants to know what is going on!" April yelled to get everyone's attention when they were already watching me with enthusiasm as if it was the greatest show they had been waiting for.



“How about we bring out our friend who will tell us what is going on?” Minnie attempted to make a joke, but the minute she stepped away, I saw Natalia come out from behind her. April pulled her closer and wrapped her arm around her, causing my jaw to drop.

“What?” I gasped. It was already a bad sign. Them joining hands meant only one thing—April was now on her side, and whatever Natalia said would be heard. But why?

“Nora is not so innocent. She lives with the stepbrothers and seduces them the minute she gets a chance to do so,” her statement was received with yelps of disgust.

13:10

#### 140—Character Assassination

The eyes that landed on me were filled with disdain.

“I watched her kiss Alpha King Ryker.” Hearing it out loud sent shivers up my spine. I trembled and no longer tried to get up. Everyone was watching me like they were on a mission to kill the disgusting witch.

“Is it true? Do you think she is getting fucked by her brothers?” some girl whispered, letting the others cover their mouths in shock.

“No! It’s not true. I am not doing anything like that,” I lied with a straight face, but deep down inside, I was shaking because it was now going to get messy.

“And she asked Alpha King Cian to paint her. And he did; he drew a naked painting of her,” April added, causing Natalia to clench her jaw. I wondered if she thought April would not talk about the one she had a crush on.

But regardless of what they were thinking and what they planned to do, I was in the middle of harsh glares and very dirty accusations being thrown my way.

“Which is why she lied about going out on a date with Alpha Brody but then rejected him because she is probably busy getting her hole drilled by her own brothers,” Lillie commented before grimacing in disgust.

“What the heck!” one of the girls hit the back of my head angrily.

“Fucking whore! Could you not keep your legs closed at all? You’re going to sleep with everyone then?” she continued, making me cover my head as she repeatedly struck me.

“Let me go,” I tried to get up and run away, but someone pushed me down again, and I landed on my butt, tears streaming down my eyes.

51. 51.

13100

146–Character Assassination

“It is a lie,” I murmured under my breath.

“We should really take her to the council and let Lord Atwood know what she has been doing all this time,” Minnie’s suggestion compelled me to cover my face in my hands and continue to cry.

“Hey! Everyone! What the fuck is going on here?” It was Brody’s voice. He yelled, and everyone finally stepped away, leaving him to come to my aid. He rushed in between them, kneeling beside me and making me uncover my face from my hands.

“What the—who the fuck do you think you are, bullying her?” He got up and yelled at everyone, his eyes stopping at April, but she didn’t look guilty.

“I expected better from you,” he muttered at April, who frowned, looking defensive.

“Hey! Do you even know what is going on here? Do you know why she rejected you?” she blurted out, adding another person to the list who would hate me now.

Before I could defend myself or Brody could say anything, she added, “She is sleeping with her stepbrothers. That’s why!”

My body crumbled like a cookie when I saw goosebumps cover Brody’s skin. They were so visible.

“There is a witness who saw her getting intimate with her

stepbrothers,” April finished, causing a lot of damage to my character.

78 541

Tasting 147

147–The Rumors

Nora:

I was still on the ground, being the object of everyone’s harsh gazes. Brody and April were just staring at each other. Everyone was kind of waiting for a reaction from Brody this time.

“I have proof too. A picture of—,” as April tried to continue, Brody held up his palm and silenced her.

“She didn’t reject me,” he said ‘out of the blue. “I told her I was going back to my pack for some issues, so we must talk after I return. So whoever is giving you information is lying to you.” The way Brody defended me with a lie caused me to stop crying and immediately feel guilty.

“Brody! What are you doing? Why are you lying?” April grabbed his hand, but he shrugged her off.

“Everyone here will be punished for behaving this way with the alpha king’s stepdaughter,” he announced loudly. Everyone watched Natalya with a frown and sighed in defeat.

“Go ahead, give me 10 rounds without a break,” he pointed his finger at the track, and everyone quickly lined up, including Ryker’s team. It was the first time I was happy Ryker wasn’t around. I didn’t want to be in the same air as him and be called all those names and things.

“Go, April!” Brody, when he noticed April not moving, yelled at her in a commanding tone.

13.101

147–The Rumors

She passed me one deadly glare before she joined the team to fulfill the punishment. Brody then turned to me and sighed, holding out his hand. for me. With tears still streaming down my face, I

took his hand and got up.

“You should go home now,” he suggested, his eyes showing a hint of sadness. I didn’t know if he believed his cousin or not, and I was too afraid to ask him.

“Why?” I asked hesitantly.

“There have been some rumors spreading around about you and our stepbrothers. The news has reached the teachers, and I am just coming from the meeting. The principal is furious, and so are the others. I would suggest you go home and let Lord Atwood and your stepbrothers deal with this mess,” he said. He kept his tone normal, but the way he avoided making eye contact with me every once in a while scared me.

Maybe he thought, just like the others, that I was having inappropriate relationships with my stepbrothers. The issue wasn’t even that, but the fact that it was all true.

I had led it all to me. All this time, and even since the beginning, I never cared about what would happen when someone found out about my taboo relationship with my stepbrothers. Why was I so clueless and fearless?

“But I didn’t do anything,” I couldn’t even look him in the eye and say that. In my defense, I wanted to say that I was not their stepsister only, that I was their mate, but who would believe me when the stepbrothers aren’t even ready to tell anyone about it?

“Nora! I believe you, but the others will need some time to digest that kind of news. Please go back home before the principal and the

22 434

teachers call for you. It will be very traumatizing for you to hear the kind of questions they have for you,” he assured me when he told me the teachers and the principal already had some harsh

questions ready for me.

And then I recalled Lord Atwood. Oh Gosh! He will find out now.

How will he react to it?

“Okay,” I uttered miserably. He stepped back and then jogged away, joining the team. I don’t know why, but I kind of hoped he would offer to drop me home. But I guess it was too much to ask from him when he had an ongoing class and I was accused of such nasty stuff. Rushing back into the school, I quickly changed and grabbed my bag to leave. To my dismay, the minute I was leaving the changing room, I encountered three teachers standing there and blocking my way.

It was Miss Pam, Miss Livia, and the male teacher, Kurt. They all looked like they were judging me, and I hated being under such scrutiny.

“Bring your stepfather to school tomorrow,” Sir Kurt said. My world shook beneath my feet, and fear engulfed me. I didn’t want this rumor to reach Lord Atwood.

“But why? I didn’t do anything wrong. Those girls are just spreading rumors out of hate,” I tried to reason with them, but their folded arms and judgmental glares made it hard for me to continue explaining myself.

“You have been accused of something very disgusting and a serious sin and crime. I would suggest you shut your mouth and bring your stepfather in the morning. We will have the conversation with you in front of him,” Miss Pam muttered, shaking her head.

“And definitely, we are not accusing you of anything. It is just that this

## 147 The Rumora

needs to be discussed so that whoever is spreading such rumors gets the punishment they deserve.” Miss Livia quickly jumped in to make her stance clear.

The others didn't seem to agree with her. She was a new, young teacher, probably not even 25. She was known to be a young she-wolf with the brain of a computer. Hence, she was appointed to such a big position at such a young age.

“Now go!” Sir Kurt signaled me with his head, and I didn't stay back either. Their eyes and the accusations had left me so terribly shaken up that I wanted to leave this place as soon as possible.

Once I was briskly running through the hallway, I began to recall the times I took care of Natalya. The fact that she stayed in my home only to get my secrets and then share them with the world broke me into a million tiny pieces.

Was all that anger because she got rejected by Cain? Was that all I was to her, a ladder to climb into my stepbrothers' pants?

But the worst part was still not over. The news was going to spread, and I was going to be under so much scrutiny.

1310

Tasting 148

148—My Brother For My Rescue

Nora:

My eyes were swollen as I rushed out of the school, with no idea of the kind of danger waiting for me outside. The weather had turned eerily foggy by then. Shielding my eyes from the dust particles with my arm, I made my way back home.

“Akira, we're doomed,” I urged, hoping she would say something to comfort me.

“I don't know what to say. Why did Natalie do that? And April just went along with it?” she hissed, her broken voice hinting that she was also hurting.

“I am so annoyed. And scared,” I added, my voice breaking.

The narrow street I took almost stopped me in my tracks when I saw some people standing in the fog. It was like they were standing still, looking in my direction.

The white fog covered the upper halves of their bodies to the point that I couldn't even tell if they were men or women. But I knew they were looking my way. They stood eerily still as well.

"Hey! Can you please move? I need to get past you," I uttered, still tearing up but trying to look confident.

With my hand on my bag strap and my eyes fixated on them, I waited and waited, but they didn't move a muscle.

"Hey! Can you hear me?" I called out again. This time, I turned my

13:10

148 My Brother For My Rescue

#1

attention away, just to look around and spot someone who I could ask about what was going on.

I had only looked away from them briefly, but when I looked back, they had moved. Not just any movement, but they all seemed a little closer this time. It made me frown and take a step back.

All of them moved in the same pattern at once. Who were they, and why were they standing there like statues?

"Um! I am the Alpha King's stepsister," I called out, hoping the title I had been using—and was probably going to be snatched away from me—would work in my favor. But as before, they didn't respond.

Just to test, I purposely looked away for only a second, and when I returned my gaze, they had stepped one step closer again.

"Ah!" I gasped as goosebumps covered my body. Not only were they stepping closer, but the fog moved with them. Part of me wanted to walk past them and maybe see who they were, but the other part, which wasn't connected to Akira, forbade me. She was the one who wasn't afraid of things like that when she should be.

Now, I just stood before them, my eyes glued to them. My breathing was all over the place as I figured the minute I looked away, they would get closer. My knees were shaking, and my eyes filled with tears from the unannounced danger. That's when a hand on my shoulder jolted me into jumping and looking away from them.

“What are you doing here?” Silas asked, standing behind me in a black oversized hoodie.

“Those people—” I turned to point at the people in a hurry because I felt like every time I looked away, they walked closer, but this time, they Were on

21

13 1020

“There were some people—” I turned to face Silas, who was keen on listening to what I had to say.

“Come, let me drop you home,” he uttered, holding my arm and

dragging me back to his car until I recalled I wasn’t supposed to talk to him.

I had promised that he would be invisible to me from now on. So instead of sliding into the car, I slammed the door shut and stepped away from it.

He was in the process of getting in on the driver’s side when he saw me step away from his vehicle.

“Seriously? Now is that the time, Nora? Let’s go home,” he rolled his eyes, insisting in a much nicer tone.

I stayed silent, giving him the silent treatment. Then I turned to walk away when I recalled I would have to pass that same narrow road. With a big sigh, I spun around and got inside his car in a bitter mood. He joined me, and after hitting the road, I stopped thinking about those people and recalled the terrifying events from school.

I was asked to bring my stepfather to school. How would I do that? What would I tell him? Or should I just skip school altogether? I mean, nothing good comes from studying. I shrugged to myself, but then my mind recalled all the taunting words and slurs.

“You don’t seem okay,” Silas’ heavy voice brought my attention back from school.

“Did something happen at school? Why aren’t you attending the combat class?” he continued to ask, driving casually and effortlessly.

“You can give me the silent treatment all you want, but let me tell you,

13.10

-My Brother For My Rescue

that's childish. What happened that night was really disturbing for me. I was in the middle of some important stuff when all that happened—" now that he was talking in a calmer tone, I turned to him.

"And what your friends and your chick did to me, was that not. disturbing for me?" I complained.

"Nora! She is not my chick. I have never laid a finger on her. I don't do those one-night things. I don't have time for it. As for those assholes, I took care of them, okay? They won't be on their feet ever again," he hissed, hitting the steering wheel before calming himself down.

"Why? Why did you take care of them?" The pathetic me wanted to hear he was improving. And surprise, surprise! He showed a different side of himself.

"Because they put their hands on you," he murmured almost shyly.

"But don't you think I've accepted you as my stepsister. I am still pretty annoyed with you, and I hate you," he hissed instantly, trying to come back from acting all cute.

"I know," I sighed.

That's when I noticed he had turned his head to me as he added, "Of course, the playful hate."

I bit my tongue but didn't turn to look at him again. Sadly, I wasn't going to stay at the mansion for too long after those kinds of rumors had been spread about me and my stepbrothers.

Tasting 149

149—My Depressed Mate

Nora:

Silas brought me home, and the minute I stepped in, I remembered the allegations. My body trembled, and without delay, I ran upstairs. Just as I passed Cain's studio, I slowed down. There was a huge lock on his door, something that had never happened before.

"He hasn't returned home," Silas said from behind me, making me jump a little.

"Is everything okay with him?" I inquired since I was probably the last one he was with before he went missing on everyone.



“Nobody knows. It is just frustrating because so much is happening in the pack and the alpha king is missing. We tried to look for him but to no avail. And it’s not like we have a lot of time on our hands to be looking for him,” Silas yammered, shaking his head.

“So, what are we going to do now?” I questioned in worry.

“Dad, Ryker, and Nash are away. It’s just the two of us, and I’ve been asked to stick with you,” he explained why he was outside in the first place.

“Yeah, Ryker didn’t take the combat class today,” he quickly added when he saw me open my mouth.

Well, that was impressive because that’s exactly what I was about to ask him anyway.

“But I don’t want to hold you up. Finding Cain is important too,” I said,

149 My Depressed Mate

feeling an urgency to find Cain. I knew he would be fine, he was powerful, but the danger outside could be worse. And the fact that the brothers have locked his studio made things even worse. Has it happened before? How long does he stay missing?

“Nora! It is not safe for me to leave you here by yourself,” he shook his head, his hands on his waist.

“Then take me with you. I want to look for him,” I insisted. The minute I started pressing, he narrowed his eyes at me and waved his finger sideways.

“No!”

“But why not?” I frowned, dropping my bag.

“You’ll get in danger too. Nash almost lost you, and if something happened to you while you’re with me, I’d get all the blame like he did,” Silas raised his voice in frustration, breaking his calm demeanor and acting like a stubborn child.

“Huh? Nash got the blame?” I was in shock. He had been so sweet the entire journey, except for when he transitioned. He was a beast.

“Look! It’s either I go with you,” I paused because he narrowed his eyes, hinting that I should think twice before saying something foolish, “or I come with you.”

I finished, and for a few seconds, he kept watching my face, zoned out, before he pressed his lips into a tight line and gave me a look of disbelief.

“Come on, I’m not a burden,” I stomped my foot. I was so worried for Cain. I wouldn’t mind harm to come to me if it meant finding him.

11.100

149 My Depressed Mate

“Fine. Go change first,” he pointed at my room and then at my bag, signaling for me to pick it up.

“Pick it up.” I left my bag and ran to my bedroom. Turning around, I watched him grunt but carry my bag. He dragged his feet to my room. and only stretched his hand inside to leave the bag on the floor before closing the door.

“He’s acting like such a gentleman,” I rolled my eyes, quickly slipping into black pants and a green sweater.

Wasting time was not an option, and I needed to get to work and find my mate. Once I was ready, I met up with Silas outside the mansion. He was holding something odd in his hand and staring at it, which he sneakily slid into his pocket when he saw me approach.

“Where are we starting from?” I asked him, watching him point to the inside of the car.

“Get inside, and I’ll tell you,” he uttered. His voice was so heavy it made me wonder if that was why his neck was so thick.

As we rolled inside, he rolled up his sleeves before driving down an unknown path I had never taken before.

“Why is it that you always take me to the weirdest places?” It was my way of subtly asking him where we were heading.

It was definitely not the high-end area of the pack. There were some women, possibly hookers, on the road.

“Ugh! Look at them,” he groaned, passing them angry glares. It irked me, and I instantly jumped to their defense.

“Don’t do that. You don’t know what they go through every day to

149 My Depressed Mar

choose this life. They are still hardworking—” As I carried on, he raised his finger in the air to silence me.

“Shhh! I am not going to listen to your yapping. I am angry because we have told them there is a danger lurking. Now if any one of them gets hurt—it will be bad,” he explained his initial tone of voice, and I sank into my seat.

“Let others talk before you judge them, Nora,” he hissed. “As for these ladies, I am responsible for keeping their area safe. That’s why I don’t want them outside today when so much is happening in the pack,” he continued but slowed down so he could call someone on his phone.

“Take the ladies home. Tell them not to come out until the issue is resolved. And if anyone must visit her client, give them a safe pick-up and drop-off,” he added, talking calmly. For the first time, I don’t know why, but he seemed so sexy. And as if it wasn’t bad enough, I felt my breasts tightening in my bra. I quickly looked away and frowned into space, confused about what was happening.

“Sure, thank you!” he hung up and sped up again.

I managed not to look at him for a few more minutes until I had to ask where we were headed.

“What is this place?” I asked in frustration.

“This is where we can find him—this is where all the bars are,” he said, and my jaw dropped. Cain coming to bars to drink with pack members? But how many drinks are we talking about? He had been gone for hours by now.

Tasting 150

150—Nora Is Playing Us All

Nash:

“Dad! It’s bad,” I approached my father, who was standing next to Ryker, discussing the happenings of the pack and the fog-covered

areas.

“Please tell me there are no more casualties,” Dad insisted, his old eyes carrying hopes. This was the lowest our pack had been. There had been many wars in the past, but never so many creatures attacking us all at

once.

“There were some young warriors found dead near the woods,” it broke my heart to deliver that news to my family.

“What happened to them?” Dad inquired in a shattered voice.

“The same symptoms. They just had their eyes wide open and their bodies turned blue and so cold,” I explained, watching him sigh and put his hand on his forehead. It wasn’t easy for someone to kill a werewolf unless they had a silver bullet or weapon.

But these dead bodies didn’t have any specific wounds. So whatever was killing them was a silent yet deadly killer.

“What news do you have?” Dad then turned to Ryker, his eyes looking

so tired.

“The fog is not from the monsters, but there have been some cases where people have claimed to see pack members standing in a row and not moving at all,” Ryker explained.

150 Nora is Maying Us All

“I hope it’s not them,” Dad almost wept in fear for the pack members.

“Let’s tell everyone to stay at home and avoid the fog,” somebody had to take a step forward; being afraid and only looking for dead bodies. was not going to work.

“And what about Nora? Did anyone pick her up from school?” Dad’s fear doubled when mentioning her.

“Don’t worry, I sorted Silas out for that work,” Ryker answered. I noticed he had been very disturbed since morning.

“Okay! I’ll go ask someone to find Cain,” Dad could barely hold himself up. He was not in a state to deal with so much mess happening around. His pain for his pack members was visible from the way he was hurrying for them. Once Dad walked into the building to meet up with the councilors, I stepped closer to Ryker.

“What is going on?” I asked him, worried for his well-being.

“Honestly, I told Dad whatever I knew,” he replied but got a headshake from me.

“I’m not talking about that. I’m talking about you. Are you upset that Nora took a ride with Brody this morning and not you?” I knew my brother’s ego was big, mine was too. And we shared an interest in not liking Brody. In fact, we didn’t like anyone mingling with us.

“No!” Ryker hissed, but his tone itself told me that was the reason.

“Come on. She’s dating him. Whether we like it or not, he’s her boyfriend, so obviously she would pick him over us all the time,” I thought I was helping, but the way Ryker turned to me and grunted, I realized it was more serious than I thought.

Maybe that’s why she felt so sexually aroused by Ryker. His aggression

21 721

13.11

150 Nora & Maying the All

and possessiveness must have given her the hint. But nothing could be done anymore.

She was dating someone and even though it was hurting me too, I had decided to keep quiet. I knew that if I lashed out, there would be no turning back.

I’ve been handling my anger and rage pretty well these days.

“You know about it. Did she tell you she’s dating him?” Ryker asked, his eyes warning me to think carefully before I responded.

“Ryker! She is dating him. I know because she said it herself. Let’s calm down and deal with the pack’s issues. We can sort out the rest later.” I patted his arm and walked away to visit the whistler.

As I headed towards the prison, I spotted someone standing in the distance with her arms wrapped around her stomach.

It wasn’t a mystery who she was. The way she waited for me made it clear it was Daphne.

I clenched my fists and groaned, trying to walk past her, but she swiftly rushed and blocked my way.

“Daphne! This is really immature,” I hissed at her, giving her a stern headshake to show I wasn’t playing around.

After what happened on the trip, there was nothing left between us to talk about or sort out.

“You’ve been avoiding my calls and texts,” she said softly, her eyes swollen and her face almost blue as if she had been feeling cold.

“And you don’t know why?” I raised a brow at her, trying to understand where she got the courage to contact me after everything.

1711

150 Norah Playing Us All

that happened between us.

“At least listen to me,” she requested, shaking as if she were deeply saddened.

“There’s nothing left to hear or say.” I replied sternly, placing my hands on my waist, until I remembered this wasn’t her first attempt to explain things to me.

“Didn’t your stepfather come to my mansion to badmouth Nora? To think she got lost and badly injured, even could have died because you lied to her about the river, and then your stepfather came to bully and insult her. Don’t you think you crossed all the lines there?” Anger surged through me as I recalled Cain calling and informing me about what that man had said.

“He’s a father and was upset to see me cry. Nash! Why are you acting this way? Don’t you remember he’s your coach, whom you’ve always respected?” I knew she would use that excuse.

It was true that I had an amazing time learning boxing with him. But that didn’t give him the right to come to my home and badmouth Nora without consequences.

“Maybe it’s time I change my coach then because I will not allow anyone to hurt or play games with Nora,” I watched her jaw drop, but she wasn’t finished yet.

Just as I was about to walk away, thinking she wouldn’t try to stop me again, she said something that made me freeze in my tracks.

“Nora is playing you all.”

76 25%