

Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates #Tasting 251 - Read Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates Tasting 251

Tasting 251

251—Hiding From The Crowd

Nora:

I watched them one by one, gulping as the situation grew more serious.

“How could she—his face was disfigured a few years ago, and he had plastic surgery,” Lord Atwood said. I don’t know why they were talking about the whistler now.

“Oh, come on. I checked all the information on his background, and it’s indeed true. He is her father—the same man whose wife—” Ford trailed off as he reminded Lord Atwood of my mother.

My heart sank the moment the topic was raised. All eyes turned to me. I covered my mouth in shock, realizing the weight of my words.

“My father is a whistler?” I stuttered, stepping back from them.

“Did you know it was your father?” Nash asked, his eyes welling with tears.

“How would she? If Dad couldn’t recognize him, how the hell would she? Dammit! She was just a child when he—” Ryker intervened, stepping forward. Even though the revelation that the whistler was my father left me stunned, it did little to calm the rising tension.

I began to wonder what I should say now. Should I claim I’m not his daughter? But I had already told them about my mother.

They would call me a liar and never accept me into their lives again. But even if he was my father, it shouldn’t mean I’d be punished too.

0.00%

His crimes should not define me.

“Nora! Is it true that you are also a monster like your father claims you are?” Lord Atwood’s gaze was fixed on me, tears nearly spilling from

his eyes.

I shook my head, my throat going dry. They wanted to know if I was a monster. I didn't have an answer. How could I look them in the eye and admit, I am the worst kind—the kind that, if discovered, would lead them to demand my execution without hesitation?

I fled back to my room as their scrutinizing eyes bore into me. I knew it wasn't the wisest decision, but what else could I do?

“What have we done?” I asked Akira, pacing anxiously and not opening the door for anyone.

They had only knocked twice before leaving me alone, but I knew it wouldn't be that simple to escape this mess. Closing the door wouldn't change the topic. They might still be discussing it outside, even planning their next move.

“How were we supposed to know things would be exposed this way? We were just going along,” she paused, recalling the day Lord Atwood had asked us to join the family.

I should have been more careful.

“I can't believe we walked into this home without realizing that, one way or another, they would discover my truth. My true identity—what then? What did I think I would say? They'll hate me for lying and hiding so much either way,” I felt as if my throat was closing in on me.

All the lies and secrets I thought were safe with me were going to be revealed sooner or later. It was just a matter of which lie I'd have to

20.46%

251 Hiding From The Crowd

choose—or which path, I should say.

“Whichever path makes us look less guilty,” Akira suggested, and tears began streaming down my face.

“But we are innocent, Akira. We've been abused; we didn't want to be part of this war between them. We never hated the Alpha King or his sons, so why are we in this situation?” I knew very soon the door would be knocked on again, and it happened just after I spoke to Akira.

This time, the knock was harder, and I could hear voices outside the door.

“Akira! Should I tell them the truth?” I stammered.

“No! They’ll kill us. The Whistler being our father should be the only truth they know, not the kind of monster we really are. Our father’s crimes can’t be the reason we get punished,” she repeated, choosing the safest of the two options for me.

This feeling was eerily familiar like the times I’d felt at home. I would lock myself in my room, crying and hoping everyone would forget about me.

But did they?

No! They would break down the door, drag me out, and punish me.

“If you don’t open the door, we’ll break it down. And remember, that will only make you look guiltier,” the old man named Yuki called out. I had seen him before, but he had never spoken so much until now.

This was a serious matter.

I nodded, trying to steady my nerves. I had to open the door and face

251–Hiding From The Crowd

them. I reached for the handle, and unlocked it, and Yuki immediately pushed it open, followed closely by Mr. Ford, who had hated me ever since the breakup between Daphne and Nash.

Tasting 252

252–A Simple Test

Nora:

The minute he walked inside, he scanned the room and then looked at

1. me.

“Huh! A monster!” he commented, and before I could react, he had grasped my wrist and started dragging me out of the room.

“Get your hands off me,” I yelled, trying to fight him off. But he was too proud of his strength.

If only he knew what I could do if I let Akira out, he would be in shreds in no more than a few seconds. But I couldn’t let her out, not when I am already seen as a monster.

“Come with us, you monster!” he hissed at me, his grasp causing me so much pain.

“Wait! I didn’t do anything,” I cried out as loudly as I could, but it was all in vain. There were so many people outside, but I couldn’t recognize any of them. I couldn’t even identify my stepbrothers among the crowd.

They took me downstairs, everyone yelling things at me, and then threw me into the holding room where Lord Atwood sat with his head bowed and shoulders slouched.

“Dad!” I exclaimed, but he shook his head, almost as if disagreeing with me.

“Did you know your father was a whistler?” he asked, his eyes fixed on my face.

253-A Simple Test

“No!” I quickly shook my head.

“Are you a monster too?” he asked me again. Looking into his eyes terrified me, but I steadily shook my head.

I needed to survive, and if I didn’t lie, they would surely kill me.

“No! I don’t even have a wolf.” I felt so guilty that I pinched the skin between my fingers secretly while lying to Lord Atwood.

“Then why did your father claim you are one of them?” he asked softly.

I could hear the pain in his heavy voice, and it was daunting.

“Because—he thinks everyone is like him,” I closed my eyes and murmured.

The silence grew thick.

“Has she ever transitioned?” Yuki asked Lord Atwood.

“No! She has not shown her wolf at all. Which is why I don’t believe that man’s word. He hates me and has held a grudge against me over the years for one reason only. Now that he’s found out his daughter is living with me, he might have lost his mind,” Lord Atwood explained my father’s behavior to the council.

I didn’t even know the whistler had called me out to be a monster. I thought they were just angry that I was related to him. Shit! I should have denied being his daughter.

“But that doesn’t mean Nora is not a monster. If a father is so certain, there must be some truth to it,” Daphne said, obviously here just to watch my downfall.

252 A Simple Test

“We cannot just let her stay here without knowing what kind of crazy beast she is,” she continued, and I hugged myself, staying at Lord Atwood’s feet.

“Then what do you suggest we do? Punish her for being born differently?” The minute Lord Atwood yelled at her, my hopes were revived. I looked up and watched his face, hoping he would say more. things like that. Maybe then I would be able to tell them my truth.

“It is not about being born differently. It is about the hatred they have for you and your sons. What if it is all her and her father’s plan to get revenge upon you and your family for their broken family?” Daphne was so cleverly trying to brainwash them all.

“I swear I am not a part of anything. That’s why I ran away,” I said, referring to a completely different world but still connecting to the situation. My mind was entirely blocked from thinking rationally at this point.

“I think that man lied about everything. There is no way she could have gone to free him,” Lord Atwood disagreed with them and I sighed. secretly. He even held my arm to make me stand up.

“What should we do then?” Yuki asked Lord Atwood, who was still watching my face with so much love. So he hadn’t lost hope in me after all?

“I know,” Ford stepped up. Of course, he knew. He must have planned everything in his head before coming here to accuse me.

“We can make her forcibly transition just to see what her wolf is all about. If we find her wolf to be a crazy monster, then believe it or not, she will turn deadly to us. There will be no chance for her to stay here,” Ford added, making my heart sink in my chest when the council

252–A Simple Test

agreed with him and nodded their heads.

Tasting 253

253–The Bitter Ex Friends

Nora:

I had been locked away after they decided to put me through a forced transition. It was going to be terrifying, and I wasn’t prepared for it.

There were moments when I was confined to the bedroom that I considered running away. But where would I go? I didn't have anyone out there who would accept me back without punishing me for fleeing.

"Where are the stepbrothers?" I asked myself, rubbing my palms anxiously.

As evening arrived, the door swung open and Lord Atwood walked in with Daphne, Natalya, and Ford behind him.

"This is the only way things will be resolved. The council is not ready to listen," Lord Atwood seemed so helpless as he spoke to me.

Of course, they wouldn't be able to do anything, especially when the pack members demand justice for all the people the monsters have killed. And now he claimed I was one too. And most importantly, that I was on his side.

"Where are my stepbrothers?" I inquired, noticing Natalya rolling her eyes behind them.

"The council had to send them away without revealing their plans. It would be awkward for you to transition in front of them or go through all that—" He paused, as if remembering something.

"What? They won't be there when I am forced to—," my mouth hung

253—The Ditter Ex Friends

dry as I understood what was going to happen to me now that all my support had been stripped away from me.

"Silas will be called back to the scene. But—" Before Lord Atwood could say more, Ford stepped forward to take over.

"But don't rely on them. They won't be foolish enough to side with someone whose father was responsible for killing the monsters. They won't risk upsetting their pack members and the council," he stopped speaking when Lord Atwood gave him a harsh glare.

"Please help her get ready," Lord Atwood said as he quickly covered his mouth, breaking down, and rushed out of the room.

Ford went after him to check on him. They had taken my phone away, leaving me no way to contact my stepbrothers at this point.

"Hmph! Remember the humiliation you caused me when you told everyone I tried to kill you?" Daphne folded her arms over her chest, forcing me to confront her expression of satisfaction.

“See! This is what happens when you become too cocky,” she smirked.

“You know, I didn’t even realize how easy it would be to get back at you. I was considering lying and making them give you this test. Little did I know, it was important that you go through with it because there was some truth to it.” They seemed so pleased watching my downfall.

What had I ever done to them?

If anything, they were dating my fated mates. They were wronging me, but of course, the moon goddess would never side with me. She would always choose them over me since I am just a

monster.

“I can’t wait for you to leave this mansion forever. You don’t deserve

253–The Better Ex Friends

this love and affection. This was supposed to be our place,” Natalya pointed a finger at her chest as she glared at me.

I didn’t expect anything from Daphne because she had never been a friend to me. But Natalya deeply disturbed me, making it almost impossible for me to trust anyone again. I did everything for her except give her my mate.

“Our friendship meant that little to you? If you couldn’t date Cain, would you still be friends with me?” My voice broke as I wanted her to explain how she only cared about being in a relationship with Cain.

“Cry about it,” Daphne commented with a laugh.

“Your friendship? A friend would do anything to make her friend happy. But what did you do? You told Cain not to paint me. I saw you do that. Why would you do that and then tell me he wanted to paint me just to embarrass me? What was all that about?” Natalya’s voice turned heavy almost instantly.

“You were so thrilled to have a new family and stepbrothers that the

idea of sharing them scared you and turned you into an evil witch,” she finished with a scoff, then wiped away the tear that was about to fall down her cheek.

Tasting 254

254–The Disgusting Man’s Touch

Nora:

“So much hatred for me,” I uttered, shocked how they got the alpha king brothers yet they couldn’t find happiness. They had to constantly drag me around to be happy.

“Oh, come on. Quit whining. You didn’t care back when you were enjoying the others’ attention. You were so happy getting all the attention from Nash. Besides, even if we hadn’t done anything, your father would have emerged and exposed you. The fact that you’re the daughter of someone who was summoning monsters just makes me feel so disgusted,” Daphne trembled dramatically, giving the impression that she was repulsed by the thought of living with me for a year without knowing my truth.

“Yet i was the one who stood with you when you were getting bullied by everyone for lying,” I almost teared up, sniffing with difficulty because i had to keep my strength for the hard part of the day.

“Now get ready. Because you’re going to be stripped, whipped, and drugged before everyone. I really do wish your wolf was a monster because imagine the anger the council would feel towards you. And even if you haven’t harmed anyone before, the pack members would want to punish you just because you are the daughter of that whistler.” Daphne had a strange gleam in her eyes as she clasped her hands together, imagining my pain.

Natalya took matters into her own hands and walked over to my closet to grab a white dress. She then threw it at my face and commanded, “Change into this. We’re headed to the mountains where you’ll receive

254–The Disgusting Man’s Touch.

the punishment suitable for all your pride.”

I couldn’t believe she was so pleased that I would be stripped and whipped in front of everyone.

As I walked towards the bathroom, I recalled the day we were under attack at the hostel. She had been so close to being killed by the monster. I was the one who didn’t care about being spotted and fought the monster, killing it just to save her.

I remembered how angry I was with the stepbrothers when they caught her in a lie and punished her. I brought her home so I could take care of her myself. After all that, this was my reward?

It was so unfair, but who was here to tell them that?

This was my trial of sorts, and I wondered what would be decided after tonight. I took a shower and changed into a white dress, and when I returned to my bedroom, I found Ford standing there with handcuffs.

There was a strange look on Ford's face as he approached me and turned me around. The pressure he applied to my back until I was bent over the bed gave me an unsettling feeling. He then pressed my hands together behind my back and handcuffed me.

"Ouch!" I winced in pain, trying to curse at him, but he wouldn't let me straighten my back and kept standing behind me with pressure on my back, my body bent over.

"You know, if it were up to me, I'd be punishing you this way but not with handcuffs," he said. My body flinched, and goosebumps covered my skin at what he implied.

"Get off me, you asshole," I snapped when I understood the kind of gestures he was making. He dry-humped me so forcefully that my face

254–The Disgusting Man's Touch

was buried in the mattress.

"You can't even take one thrust over your clothes, and you talk big," he chuckled, leaving me shocked and in tears.

I was utterly stunned and disgusted by his behavior. He then forcibly grabbed my handcuffs and pulled me up, straightening my back.

"I have to check you to ensure you're not hiding anything," he whispered, his hands reaching for my chest and groping me.

My eyes

widened in shock and revulsion took over me. "Don't touch me," I said as he continued to massage my breasts. I forcefully turned around and kned him between the legs. His eyes widened, clearly not expecting me to fight back, and he landed on the ground, covering his crotch and groaning in pain.

"Fuck! She's trying to escape," he yelled. As he did, Daphne and Yuki walked in with the guards.

"She hit me so she can run away," he continued to lie as I watched their faces.

"That's a lie," Yuki said, ordering the guards to seize me. They grasped my arms with pressure, and I decided to tell them what was happening. "He was touching me inappropriately," I said. As soon as I spoke, Daphne stared at her stepfather and then at Yuki.

Tasting 255

255–The Day Of Judgement

Nora:

“Oh, seriously? Now you’re going to lie about this too? Ask anyone and see how many times she’s lied in the last two months. Does she really think we’ll still believe her?” Ford stood up, his face still red from the pain he might have been feeling between his legs.

Yuki walked over to me and stood directly in front of me before raising his hand and slapping me so hard that my ear began to ring.

I would have fallen to the ground if the guards hadn’t been holding me so tightly.

“You’re accusing a fighter from our pack, a man older than you, of such a thing? And you think we don’t know how much you love lying and seeking attention?” Yuki hissed, clearly siding with Ford.

“Now! Let’s not delay this any further so we can put her in her place. Either an accusation or prison.” Yuki’s words made me realize that no matter what the outcome today, I was going to be punished once I transitioned.

Ford approached me but didn’t touch me. “You keep holding her, or else she’ll accuse me again.”

He acted so righteous and fearful of my accusations.

I despised all the lies being spun about me. Soon, they dragged me downstairs and forced me into the warrior’s truck. They shoved me inside, ensuring there were plenty of warriors around to keep an eye on

1. me.

255–The Day of Judgement

I knew for a fact that Lord Atwood was following behind us in his own car. I just wanted a peaceful day or night, or perhaps to be somewhere far away from them.

They had been treating me like a disgusting person ever since the Whistler told them I was his daughter.

How could a father do that to his own child?

Throughout the ride, the warriors kept reminding me of the pack members they had lost to the monsters, calling me just like my father.

“Your father was a horrible man, and you hid in our pack, took our respect, and enjoyed our company while he killed our people.”

They kept talking, and I couldn't stop the tears from falling.

Finally, we reached the mountains, and I was dragged out of the truck, thrown into the midst of the crowd. I was trembling uncontrollably. The cold wind brushing against my skin sent shivers down my spine.

“Monster!”

Someone screamed and hurled an empty can at me, which struck just below my eye. I felt a sharp sting, and I was certain the skin had split

open.

“Hey!” Lord Atwood shouted, but Ford grabbed his arm, stopping him from intervening and urging him to focus on what was about to happen.

“I am innocent,” I whispered to the guard, who was now removing the handcuffs, making it easier for them to strip me naked.

“Please! Don't do this. I haven't transitioned yet, so being exposed in front of so many people will be my first time,” I pleaded in murmurs,

255 The Day of Judgement

but they only scoffed, almost as if they were enraged by my audacity to still make requests.

“Your father and his monsters skinned our pack members alive, and you want us to spare you the humiliation of getting naked in front of these grieving families?” the guard muttered before slapping me hard across the face.

As soon as his heavy hand left a bruise on my cheek, the crowd erupted in cheers. Lord Atwood's eyes widened in shock at how the others were cheering for the guards to beat me.

Not only him, but I also realized at that moment that these people didn't want me to leave here alive. They were determined to punish me simply for being the daughter of the Whistler.

I wondered if I should reveal my truth to them or let them subject me to this unbearable humiliation.

“Strip everything off her body,” Yuki yelled, prompting Ford to step forward. Of course, this would be his revenge on me for hurting him earlier.

He ripped the necklace from my neck first. Lord Atwood turned his face away, his body trembling slightly, a sign that he was struggling to hold back his sobs.

I was about to face the worst humiliation imaginable, and it wouldn't stop there. The moment I transitioned, they would take me down, likely not even waiting for me to return to my human form.

Tasting 256

256—My Chosen Mate!

Nora:

There was only one plan I could come up with. Once I transition, I have to run as fast as I can. I know I will attack those who come in my way, but I will be doing that to save my life. I just wondered if I will be missed once I leave this place.

Probably not.

They will always remember me with bitter and hateful words.

As soon as Ford's hand landed on my collar, I watched him smirk. He was going to tear open my dress, exerting his power over me. Before he could put his other hand on my collar, a loud scream pierced the air, and everyone turned to look at the person arriving in haste.

“What the hell is going on here?” Brody yelled, pushing away the guards who tried to stop him.

“You must have heard all the accusations. They're all true; she's the daughter of the Whistler,” Yuki growled, his voice laced with barely controlled anger.

“And? That gives you the right to insult my chosen mate? She is soon to be Luna of the Silver Jaw Pack and this is how you are treating her?” Brody retorted, even shoving the guard who attempted to hold his arm. He managed to reach me, pushing Ford away and stepping in front of me.

Everyone gasped and shook their heads in disapproval at him. But he seemed to confidently stand before them and take my side. I didn't

new be willing to turn everyone against him for me.

“How can you side with that monster’s daughter?” one of the women cried. She had lost her daughter, our school teacher, during the monster’s attack on the school.

“Because she is innocent. We should not punish her for her father’s crimes,” Brody shouted, making me gently wrap my fingers around his bicep and pull my body closer to him.

His body responded to my touch, and he placed his hand on mine, reassuring me that he was here for me.

“It doesn’t matter. There’s no way she couldn’t have recognized him. A daughter knows her father’s voice, even if his face has changed a bit from surgery or aging,” Yuki snapped at Brody, giving him a deadly glare.

“I don’t believe that. She left home very early on. Why do you think she did that? She didn’t like what was going on. She didn’t want to be a part of what was going on,” he continued to defend me, frustrating the pack members.

I was stunned too.

I didn’t know he loved me that much—to come here and make himself look bad in front of everyone just for my sake. He earned a new respect in my eyes.

But that didn’t change the fact that I was already beyond humiliated.

“She’s

’s one of them. She’s the one who killed Mia. Ask her where she was the night of the ball. Was she with you? No! Because we checked the ball’s cameras,” Yuki declared, his voice dripping with accusation. However, there were no cameras in the garden, so they couldn’t spot

me with Nash.

That realization shook me to my core.

Brody turned to me and held my hand gently, “Look me in the eye and tell me where you were. I know you didn’t do it, but they will need your word.”

I gazed at him with tears streaming down my cheeks, my lips quivering. I so wanted to tell them where I was, but then it would implicate Nash. They would question him for spending time alone with his stepsister and losing the Whistler.

I just watched and stared at Brody.

“I was walking around the garden,” I finally said, my voice breaking and tears appeared in my eyes again.

“Was there anyone who could vouch for you?” he whispered, his warm hands keeping my cold ones comforted.

I shook my head at him before my eyes landed on Daphne. She would never side with me. In fact, she would deem me a liar if I opened my mouth again.

So I just shook my head and lowered my face, letting the tears fall.

“Nothing—nothing will happen to you, you hear me?” Brody steadily shook my hands in his, and I raised my head to give him a broken smile,

I don’t know how he intends to keep that promise because so far, everyone seems to be against me.

And that’s when the guards began to grab Brody. Even he seemed

256—My Chosen Matel

surprised that they were taking such action.

“You cannot lay your hands on an alpha-” his words were cut off when someone swiftly injected him with wolfsbane.

They acted quickly to prevent him from shifting. I knew in that moment that they would silence anyone and everyone who would come. for my defense.

Tasting 257

257—His Eyes On My Panties

Nora:

He turned around and stared at the guard, his eyes wide open. His hands still gripped mine tightly. I tried to hug him, desperate to stop them from taking him away, but with one gesture from Yuki, he was already gone.

Now I was standing all alone once again, without any help. The frowns had even intensified now. They held anger and hatred for me in their eyes.

I gulped with difficulty, shaking miserably. I had been so stressed out that my body was constantly trembling, and the world around me was spinning. But I clung to my consciousness so that I wouldn’t faint.

“Now! Enough with the interruptions. Has anyone informed Alpha King Silas to come here and complete the rest of the test?” Yuki turned to Lord Atwood, who had cried so much that his eyes were now swollen.

“Keep your emotions in check. You are an ex–Alpha King and the father of the current Alpha Kings. Your loyalty should remain with your pack members and not someone who killed an innocent member of your pack,” Yuki hissed in an undertone, but Lord Atwood refused to listen.

“He has been informed,” one of the guards replied.

Ford started to walk my way again. I kept taking steps back, but we were at the

of a mountain with a steep drop below. If I fell from there, I might not even survive long enough to twist the ring on my

257–His Eyes On My Panties

finger and transition.

“I promise to keep your underwear and masturbate with it every night,” Ford whispered, making sure nobody else heard his disgusting words as he ran his hands under my dress and grabbed my panties.

Since everyone had already deemed me guilty, they weren’t noticing his inappropriate actions. He began pulling my panties down despite my efforts to hold them in place over my dress.

“Please, don’t do that,” I requested as he applied more force.

That’s when everyone started to look to the other side at the arrival of someone.

“Who is getting tested, and why were we Alpha Kings not informed beforehand–?” Silas entered the crowd, seemingly unaware of what was happening. That much I gathered from the casual way he asked until his eyes landed on me.

I could see his eyes widen from behind his glasses, and then he lunged towards us at full speed. A yelp escaped the crowd when he pushed Ford, causing him to roll over and land at the pack members’ feet.

“Who the hell allowed you to touch her?” he screamed so loudly that everyone covered their ears.

Even Yuki seemed shocked and gulped visibly. Lord Atwood smiled a little in relief, watching his son arrive.

“What is going on here? Who let that man do that to her?” Silas continued to yell. His body was exuding a very powerful aura. He faced everyone, one by one, passing them harsh glares.

“She is the daughter of the Whistler, and she killed Mia,” Yuki had to

Silas grunted, “And what else? Maybe she went back in time and committed other crimes as well. Don’t just accuse her of everything just because she couldn’t find a single person to confirm she was walking around the garden that night,” he used his authoritative voice, challenging Yuki.

“You are like my son. You know I didn’t have a son of my own, so I let the crown rest on your head. But that doesn’t mean I’ve lost my mind. I know what I’m doing. All the signs point to her and her alone,” Yuki continued to point at me.

Silas groaned and turned to me, checking me over by cupping my face in his hands. Everyone started whispering and watching our interaction with disgusted looks on their faces, but that didn’t bother Silas.

“What happened to your face? Did someone hit you?” His eyes restlessly moved from the cut under my eye to the bruise on my cheeks. He then stepped back and took off his hoodie.

That was the first time he had removed his clothing in front of anyone. His body was lean but muscular, with broad shoulders that made him look even more imposing. Everyone was surprised, and so was I, when he quickly helped me put on his hoodie.

“Then let’s settle this in an easy way. Let’s make her transition because that’s what the entire pack wants,” Yuki, feeling challenged, spoke to Silas in a way that conveyed what to expect next.

Tasting 258

258–Taking The Blame

Nora:

“You think you get to make decisions for us?” Silas grunted under his breath. I had never seen him so vocal in others’ presence. He just didn’t seem to care anymore. I thought he would want me to get in trouble. since I wrote in my file about them, but that wasn’t the case. He

surprised me when he came to defend me.

“This is the only way. She must transition, and you will test her,” Yuki shamelessly repeated his decision, causing my body to tense up. I was terrified of this test.

“And if you don’t wish to do that, we will have to reconsider your role as the pack’s Alpha King.” That threat made Silas’ muscles tense up.

Lord Atwood buried his face in his hands and then slowly started to kneel down.

“Oh no!” Ford quickly rushed to him and supported his body. Lord Atwood had passed out, which made Silas rush toward him. I watched him take several steps toward him but then retreat to ensure I was staying shielded behind him.

“Is that why you sent my brothers away?” Silas grimaced, his eyes restlessly watching his father.

“Because we didn’t want your brothers to embarrass themselves. Now look at your father—it happened because of you. The thought of you being stripped of your crown made him lose consciousness. If you let this happen, we will have to punish you all as well. Your entire family,

258–Taking The Blame

and if you wish to show power to us, remember, many innocent people will die going to war against you,” Yuki was cleverly trying to shut every door and every possibility of my escape from this test.

Silas seemed a little lost now. A guard approached him and gave him a shirt, which Silas wore instantly.

“Because if it is true that she is a monster, how do you feel knowing

she hid it from you? Didn’t she conceal the fact that she was the whistler’s daughter?” Yuki continued, and Silas began to step away

from me.

I watched him leave my side and walk all the way to his father to help him. He checked his pulse and everything before he lifted his head to make one last request to Yuki.

“Can’t we do this without so many people around?” he asked.

“We must not. They want justice,” Yuki disagreed with the idea of giving me privacy or any special treatment.

“I know for a fact that she didn’t hide anything from us. She is not a monster, I know that. So once the test is done and it is proven, who will take responsibility for the trauma

she has been through here?” Hearing Silas have so much belief in me shattered me, “and dare threaten me again.”

As he said that, I wondered how he would react when he finally found out that I am indeed a monster, and I did hide not only my wolf but so much else from them—my entire identity!

“I am not threatening you, your highness. It is about this traitor. We don’t need to worry about this girl’s trauma when her father has traumatized our people for years. Now, let’s get started, because I am sure, once she transitions, you will be the one in disbelief.”
Yuki

258–Taking The Blame

shrugged carelessly, gesturing at Ford to attack me once again.

However, this time, someone else entered, and his arrival didn’t just mean he would defend me and the same argument would take place as it did with Brody and Silas.

This person came in with a loud statement that halted everything, even the wind.

“She is innocent. She didn’t kill Mia.”

Ryker stepped between them, causing them to scatter and give him space so that he could make his way toward me without any hindrance. I was once again shocked at the arrival of yet another stepbrother who I thought wouldn’t care at all.

His eyes were staring deep into my soul as he stopped in front of me and then turned around to face Yuki.

“Do you have any proof that she didn’t do it?” Yuki inquired, not sounding pleased that another one of the Alpha Kings was taking my side.

“I know she didn’t do it. Because I am the one who did.”

And with that statement, Ryker shocked everyone.

Tasting 259

259–Like A Shield In Front Of Me

Nora:

Nobody believed their ears the first time. Even I was stunned, hoping it to be just a fault of my ears. I wouldn’t ever want Ryker to come out and lie about it and get himself in trouble.

“I killed Mia,” Ryker said again. This time, he mentioned her name and even shrugged. My heartbeat kept fluctuating wildly, and my head was getting dizzy

I knew Ryker was lying, but why? Didn't he hate me now? Wasn't he dating April? Why would he take the blame on himself for me then? What was I to him anymore?

“That's a good try, son. But we all know she's the culprit. You brothers are just doing this because you feel obligated to take her responsibility and keep her safe. Let me tell you something, you don't need to do any of that. She's a monster's daughter. She's not your family,” Yuki explained loudly, shaking his head in disbelief at Ryker lying so blatantly.

“I'm not lying. Whether you believe it or not, I'm standing here, admitting that I am the monster who killed Mia,” he said again. This time, Silas, who had helped his father regain consciousness, got up from the ground and watched his brother's face intently.

“Brother!” Silas called out to him, shaking his head.

“It's true, Silas. I did it. And if they don't believe me, I can show them my truth in case they forgot.” Ryker stepped back and began taking off

his shirt.

“No! Ryker! Stop!” his father yelled, making me tremble in my skin and gulp in shock. Was he really going for it?

I had heard the brothers had transitioned before the council and hardly ever before all the members of the packs because their wolves were indeed different.

But why was everyone watching Ryker with such shock? Had they not seen his wolf before?

“It's all on your shoulders now. If I hurt someone, it's on you because you didn't believe me when I said-” Ryker went silent and then spoke while keeping his eyes down.

He took a brief pause, and when he lifted his head again, I heard everyone gasp. “I am the monster.”

With that, his skin started to turn black and scaly. His bones cracked, and his body dropped to the ground.

He began to wail and grunt while his body underwent a terrifying transformation. Watching him endure so much pain, combined with the stress I had faced just hours ago, overwhelmed me.

My eyes watered, and with trembling hands, I reached for Ryker's back. The instant my hand made contact with his skin, his groaning quieted.

For a moment, everything calmed down. His pain seemed to subside.

It only lasted for a few seconds, but it felt like hours. Everything went back to chaos as I felt a strong grasp around my waist and my body being pulled away from Ryker.

It was Silas, trying to ensure I didn't get too close to Ryker, who was now all black and scaly. His body resembled neither a lycan nor a werewolf.

He was in visible pain, and the way everyone looked at him only intensified his suffering.

He was some different kind of being. But others yelled the word "monster" at him. As he swung his massive limbs around, screams filled the air.

"Nora! Go back home," Silas urged me, his hands gently holding my arms and making sure I was safe.

"No!" I shook my head as tears streamed down my face.

"Please! You need to go so that I can focus on my brother," the worry in Silas' voice broke my heart.

"Go help him," I insisted, but I wasn't planning on leaving, even as my body shivered and I broke into a cold sweat.

"Not while you're here. Please, free me and go back to the car. If you're not safe, none of us will feel safe," Silas cupped my face as he delivered the words to me with much affection.

I was able to look into his eyes and realized he still cared—they still cared. Then why were they acting so cold toward me?

"Take her to the car and make sure she stays protected," Silas told one of the guards, handing me over to him like I was some doll this time.

Tasting 260

260—Unexpected Help

Nora:

However, the minute that the guard held me, I began struggling to free myself.

“He would never hurt me,” I claimed in my half-conscious state, but nobody could hear me. The guard carried me from the scene, and soon I lost all my senses. The screams died down, and the visual fear faded

away.

I could no longer witness what was going to happen next. My body was carried back to the mansion and laid to rest in the bedroom.

It was the strangest sleep ever. Throughout my dreams, I chased after Ryker, who was in his monster form. I wanted to stop him and tell him that he was fine, that I would make sure no harm came his way.

But then I began to feel the mattress beneath me—my own bed.

I slowly started to regain consciousness in my own bed. Beside me stood a man. I had to force my eyes open to see who it was.

It was a guard with a gun, ready to defend against anyone who might come for me.

“Ryker!” I uttered, catching the attention of the guard, who instantly leaned over me to offer water, but I gently pushed his hand away to look around and recall what had happened before I passed out.

The memory of the humiliation, along with Ryker turning himself in, rushed back to me, and I couldn’t help but sit up.

260—Unexpected Help

“RYKER!” I shouted, and the guard quickly stood

“She’s awake!”

1. up.

I heard him call for others, or whoever he could find. My head was still hurting, and my eyelashes were already wet.

Had I been crying in my sleep?

I couldn’t be sure. I was just certain that it wasn’t a nightmare and that Ryker had been called a monster.

“Ryker!” My heart ached at the reminder of what might have happened to him. Wait!

How long have I been out? Has it been days? Has Ryker already been punished?

No!

That shouldn't happen. It must not happen. I was convincing myself that it wouldn't happen, but then again, I knew what they would do to the monster who had killed Mia.

And Ryker admitted to being both.

As my bedroom door opened, I expected one of the brothers or Lord Atwood to come inside and have a talk with me. But instead, the ones who entered were not the people I wanted to see.

"Natalya! Daphne! April," I grunted, glaring at them angrily.

"You're awake now," Natalya said. She would usually not speak up unless she was surrounded by the brothers or speaking to me in whispers, or she was with her group.

TI

"Why the fuck are you three here now?" I yelled, realizing part of the reason so much had happened was because of them.

If they hadn't started playing so many games, the ball wouldn't have gone the way it did. The way Ryker left the ball and now had no ally just made him look so guilty.

However, the girls didn't look very smug this time. In fact, April seemed like she had seen some terrible things.

"You shouldn't be yelling right now. So much has happened in the pack, and you're still angry with us. Why not help us fix everything?" Daphne hissed, her arms crossed over her chest.

"What? What do you mean—what is happening in the pack? Where is Ryker—oh Goddess, the last time I was awake—" I gasped, my hands flew to my lips, and my heart started to pound.

"Your memory is right. Ryker took the blame just to save you," Natalya mumbled. Their words shook the ground beneath my feet. I didn't expect it to be true. I was praying it was all just one big nightmare, but

it wasn't.

"What are we going to do now?" A part of me had died when everyone called Ryker a monster.

I know the pack members sensed something was wrong with their alpha kings, but they never thought their alpha king would kill a pack member.

“I want you to help us free Ryker!” she said, and my heart sank in my chest.

“What?” I looked at their faces one by one.

200–UnexpectedHelp

“They are going to kill him for what he’s done; I hope you know that,” Daphne stepped forward, stating it loud and clear.

Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates #Tasting 261 - Read Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates Tasting 261

Tasting 261

261–I Will Save My Mate

Nora:

“They’re going to kill him? But why? He didn’t kill Mia. I know he is innocent,” I said, bewildered. I wasn’t sure why I was suddenly defending him when I had previously gathered evidence against him over Christina’s murder, linking him to Mia’s murder. Now, I believe that sometimes innocent people could look guilty when someone is framing them.

“What do you think they’ll do to him after he admitted to killing Mia and then showed his monster side?” As soon as Daphne said that, April rushed out of the room, crying. Her friends sighed and then turned to face me again.

“Don’t call him that. You know she’s sensitive about him,” Natalya requested softly, but it made Daphne roll her eyes before she turned back to me.

“I’m not just saying this out of nowhere. It’s true. Have you seen his wolf? I don’t even know if we can still call him that at this point,” Daphne seemed indifferent, but it was clear she was here with an agenda, and I wanted to know what was going on with her.

“As for you, can you leave so I can have a word with her in peace?” Daphne asked Natalya. It was obvious Daphne didn’t get along well with her. Maybe it was a status difference, but she treated Natalya like she didn’t exist, with a rudeness that was hard to ignore. Natalya, still her usual self when she wasn’t drawing strength from April or Cain, nodded meekly and left the room for us to talk.

“What is it that you want to discuss with me? If you’re here to call

Ryker a monster, just save it. I will fucking-" Before I could finish, she shook her head, silencing me, and continued talking about why she had actually come to my room.

"I'm not here to do anything wrong. In fact, I'm going to offer you something to save Ryker," she said, folding her arms over her chest. Now that she was being upfront, she had my full attention. If anyone wanted to save Ryker, it was me. I didn't care what anybody said about him.

Before seeing his wolf form, I had suspicions because of how things were matching up. I did make a file because, somewhere inside, I thought the brothers might be involved. But the minute he transitioned and I saw his wolf, my mind changed.

Touching his wolf gave me a different feeling, one that I could still feel in my palm. The warmth and everything about it felt so different.

"I'm going to save Ryker," she said, making me frown in confusion.

"How? How can you even do anything about it now?" I inquired, my eyebrows knitted together and a frown on my forehead.

"It's going to be a deal we make, and in return, I'll need something from you," she continued, confusing me even more. I didn't even know if I had anything I could offer her to save Ryker.

"If it's my life—take it," I said determinedly. She raised her eyebrow, clearly surprised by my response. The look she gave me, as if she didn't expect me to say something like that, was a mystery in itself. It seemed like she was trying to understand something, but then she shook her head and kept pacing around the room.

"Your life is worth nothing, Nora. You're a monster's daughter, and it

261-1 Will Save My Mate

wouldn't benefit anyone to kill you. In fact, keeping you alive would make a lot of difference," she shrugged, making me shake my head at how toxic she was towards me and my life.

"Then? How can I save him?" I asked directly this time. My heartbeat was rising, and she was taking her sweet time telling me what needed to be done.

"I'll take care of everything, but don't you want to know what you have to do in return?" she asked with a smirk.

I knew at that moment she was going to play a final card. I kept watching her face before I steadily nodded my head.

“I’ll do anything to save Ryker,” I uttered, but it wasn’t a meek response. I was confident that this is what I wanted.

Tasting 262

262–Hurting Their Feelings

Nora:

I wanted to save Ryker at any cost.

“Even if he is the killer?” she inquired with a scoff.

“He is not,” I replied firmly

She nodded and continued, “You do realize you’re in all this mess because of them, don’t you?”

I tried to argue but paused, allowing her to finish her statement.

“They were supposed to take care of you, but instead, they welcomed your enemies. And look at you now—you almost got humiliated yesterday.”

As she reminded me of yesterday, I realized I had been out all night.

“Have a seat; this is going to be a long talk,” she gestured for me to sit down, and I reluctantly took a seat. As long as she offered me a way to save Ryker, I was willing to listen.

“Here’s what you will do. You will convince Lord Atwood that you’re scared of Ryker, so you want to stay at Brody’s apartment until Ryker clears the test,” she instructed, making my heart skip a beat.

“He will be taking a test where his wolf will be subjected to torture to see if he is indeed capable of killing someone. But if you want, I can stop it,” she offered, her intentions becoming clear. She was using this opportunity to send me away.

But why send me to Brody’s apartment? I will eventually come back, and then what? What will she do then?

“You want me to say I’m scared of Ryker?” I was shocked she was making me do this.

“You don’t have to if you don’t want to. save Ryker,” she shrugged.

I’m just giving you an option to

“But how do you plan to save him?” I wasn’t going to trust her blindly. I needed to ensure she could actually save him.

“Remember when they said there were no cameras outside, but there were inside? Even when they claimed there were some faults, I managed to get my hands on some footage. It shows Ryker and Cain heading to the rooms to rest,” the moment she said that, my heart revived.

In the end, I understood exactly what she wanted from me. It was going to be one heck of a thing, but I was ready to do it.

“So?” she asked.

I lowered my head and then nodded,

“You’re right. The brothers have done the worst to me by welcoming my enemies to the mansion and allowing them to mistreat me. Not only did they bring them in, but it seems like they’ve unleashed them on me. I’m miserable. I want to do this one good thing and then cut ties with them. It will be my way of repaying them for what their father has done for me,” it was decided, and I wasn’t going to back out. I said all the right words that would ensure the girls wouldn’t dismiss the plan.

If I told them I would stick around, they would never help Ryker. Even April, who loved him so much, wanted to use this moment to kick me

out of the pack.

I nodded and left the room to find Lord Atwood. I didn’t want to delay this any longer.

He was in the living room with Nash, both looking worried. The minute I entered, they started to get up.

“Are you okay?” Nash’s eyes were filled with sadness at what I had been through.

“I’m okay; I just wanted to speak to Lord Atwood,” I said, feeling the pressure on my nerves. Between my happiness and my mate’s, I decided to choose my mate’s happiness and safety.

“What is it?” Lord Atwood made me sit close to him. He looked so concerned as he held my hand with his trembling hands.

“Ryker is innocent, and before you say you know, there is a proof that Ryker was in the royal hall that night,” I stated, watching them share a glance. Nash’s lips instantly curled into a smile, and Lord Atwood sighed in relief.

“But—I want to say that-,” I looked up at Daphne, who was hiding behind a large pillar. If I mentioned her name and didn’t say what else she wanted, she said she would deny everything and get me in trouble again for giving them false hope.

“That I don’t want—to stay here. I mean, I don’t feel safe here, so if it’s possible, can I stay at the apartment with Brody for a few days?” The moment I said that, I saw Nash’s frown appear on his forehead.

“You don’t feel safe here? What do you mean by that?” he questioned, looking very disturbed.

me that footage, I had to do it.

“Because of Ryker. ”

Tasting 263

263—Getting Kicked Out

Nora:

“I have come to realize that Ryker is not someone I would feel safe around until he is fully checked and under control,” I muttered, feigning concern.

“Nora! He showed his wolf for you, and you’re saying-” Nash clenched his jaw, but Lord Atwood silenced him with a hand gesture.

“Let her finish.”

“I think until he calms down, I will stay at the apartment,” I murmured. I knew the soothing therapy would take a week. I can survive in the apartment for that time.

“Okay! You should go and stay there,” Lord Atwood didn’t ask me any more questions. I wanted this conversation to end quickly, but it passed so rapidly that I began to wonder if this was what Lord Atwood wanted all along.

He wanted me gone. But Nash looked so hurt by my words. As I was walking back upstairs, I gestured to Daphne to play her part. She nodded and then hurried downstairs.

“Good news, we have recovered the deleted footage-” I heard some cheers from downstairs while I went to my room to pack for the week. When I return after this week, I will fix everything.

“Are you sure, Nora? I mean-” Brody asked as he sat on the bed, watching me collect my clothes and shove them into a bag.

Ivey mywo more wally, and my can ached om the pain I saw on Lord

ана шу пеан аспец пот Atwood's face.

"I know what I'm doing. I have to stay away for a week, and Lord Atwood seemed so pleased with the idea," I couldn't even finish my sentence.

"But why did you say all those things to him? You hurt his feelings. when you spoke about his son like that," Brody watched my face intently. I noticed tears in his eyes whenever I broke down.

"I had to. They've been saying whatever was on their minds. Couldn't I speak up just once? All they expected from me was constant praise," I mumbled, feeling like I was dying inside.

"Relax! Calm down. We'll go to my place and stay there for the whole week. Then you can come back when things have settled down a bit," he got up to help me with the packing.

"You're right, that's the plan. Hopefully, by the time I return, things will be better," my voice was meek that day.

I couldn't even lift my gaze from the ground.

That's when a knock on the door caught our attention, and we turned to see who had arrived. It was Lord Atwood with Yuki behind him.

"Your Highness," I didn't even want to show respect to that elder, but I had to since his anger towards me could ruin my life.

"We've come to discuss some matters," Yuki took the lead while Lord Atwood stood beside him with his arms folded over his chest.

"Yes?" I asked.

Lord Atwood didn't even glance our way.

L you! Tuk asked, though

"I do. I love her desperately," Brody was always quick to express his feelings for me, unlike my own mates, who had to stay silent because of so many forbidden ties.

"Then why are you taking her to your apartment and not your pack?" The moment he asked that question, I raised my head and watched Lord Atwood, hoping he would look me in the eye.

“Because I’m only dating her. She has a family and school here,” Brody quickly explained, knowing I wasn’t ready to leave my pack just yet.

It was too soon.

My name had been cleared from Mia’s case, so why were they talking about shifting packs again?

“Hmm! But I guess it will be for the best if you take her with you. Your pack has schools, right?” Yuki continued, and this time, I decided to step forward and speak for myself.

“But I want to stay here with my family. I don’t want to go yet. I’m only nineteen and-” I started rambling because I could tell Lord Atwood was siding with this idea, as he hadn’t protested against it so far.

“You will not address me, and neither will we talk. I’m speaking to an alpha, who, unlike you, wouldn’t lie to everyone,” Yuki pointed his finger at me, and I realized I was challenging the wrong person.

So I changed my approach and turned to Lord Atwood, who instantly stepped back just to show me that he was no longer on my side.

“Dad! You don’t want me to leave this pack, do you?” I asked, smiling

weakiy, tears or ш шу сусь ани шини шу

Tasting 264

264–Forced To Marry My Boyfriend

Nora:

“Don’t leave any of your belongings here. It will be hard for you to go. back and forth for your stuff. His pack is a bit far from ours,” Lord Atwood said, making it clear where he stood on this matter.

He wanted me gone.

“You want me gone?” I wanted to hold his hand, but he had them. tightly clasped behind his back.

“Wait a minute. I think this is quite unfair. Kicking her out like she’s some criminal? Let her stay here and finish her studies. I’m her boyfriend, and I’ll make sure she stays out of any trouble. I’ll keep her protected,” Brody tried his best to convince them that forcing me to leave the pack wasn’t a wise decision.

“Either you accept her and take her away, or we’ll have to find a new home for her,” Yuki declared, making it clear that he wouldn’t back down. If they wanted me gone, I had to leave.

“No!” I stubbornly shook my head at their decision.

“What happened to the promise you made to my mother?” I asked Lord. Atwood, whose jaw tightened as he was reminded of the promise he was now breaking.

“The promise is fulfilled because I did make you part of the family when you stayed here. Therefore, we must request Brody to accept you and take you away. It will be like marrying you off. Stepdaughters don’t

turned to me, his eyes red with anger.

He was upset with me, and this was his way of punishing me.

L

“Besides, he doesn’t have to fulfill promises made to that monster’s wife or that woman who ruined his family. Stop giving your mother so much importance; she was a whore too,” Yuki muttered under his breath, but I couldn’t argue with him. He had already succeeded in getting me kicked out.

“But—I’m not ready for such a big change,” I pleaded, wanting to make eye contact with Lord Atwood. However, he refused to even look my way.

“I will not stand here and let you kick her out,” Brody took a stand for me, causing Yuki to roll his eyes before giving a nod as if he knew what needed to be done in that case.

“I guess we’ll have to find someone to marry her off to then,” Yuki shrugged, but I ran behind Brody, remembering how much they mistreated me the last time they wanted to punish me.

“That’s too much. What has this poor girl done to any of you?” Brody almost raised his voice, causing Yuki to give Lord Atwood a nod before he stepped closer and muttered.

“She’s been a nuisance since her arrival. From lying about being poisoned to nearly killing that innocent mate of Alpha King Cain, she’s done a lot. We don’t want her around the brothers. We don’t want her toxicity near them,” Yuki announced, sinking my heart into my chest.

“And she said she’s afraid of my son. My son will stay here, and his condition is that his wolf will remain a bit different and more powerful than others. I wouldn’t want her constantly crying about being afraid of

35.581

10457

Ryker,” Lord Atwood turned his ea

upset by my previous words.

“What I said was a lie,” I instantly backtracked. Daphne had already informed them she recovered the footage, so there was no need for me to keep lying.

“You’re only saying this now because you’ve realized the weight of your words has come back to haunt you,” Yuki, of course, was standing between us, blocking any chance of help I could get.

“So, it’s up to Brody now. Either leave her here, and she’ll be married off to some omega, or—he can marry you and take you with him,” Yuki shrugged as if it was no big deal.

Did the brothers even know what they were planning to do to me?

Tasting 265

265—Asking My Stepbrothers For Help

Nora:

“I’m giving you a few hours to plan and decide. If you don’t want her with you, we’ll have to get her married to someone here and ensure she moves to their home,” Yuki told Brody before patting Lord Atwood’s back to bring him back to the conversation.

As the two walked away, I turned to Brody with tears streaming down

my eyes.

“What are they saying? Can they really do that?” I asked him, my body trembling miserably.

When will this humiliation end?

“They can. They’re the council and the Alpha King-” Before he could finish, I realized what I needed to do regarding this matter.

“I need to speak to the brothers,” I blurted out, feeling like a fool for just now coming up with the idea.

“Huh?” Brody frowned.

“Think about it, if the brothers say they’re fine with me living here, the council won’t be able to make any decisions for me. The Alpha Kings will have the final say,” I smiled widely as I remembered how much we had bonded over the time we spent together.

“I think the council must have spoken to them before coming here. It would be a fool’s errand to go and request this from them,” Brody held my hand to prevent me from running after the brothers. But

I freed my

hand from his grasp because I knew they would do it for me.

The type of bond I had with these brothers was different. Even if there was no mate bond, we had been so close that there was no way they would ask me to leave their home so easily.

“I’m sure they’ll be against the idea. Even when they were upset with me, they were against the idea of me staying in your apartment, Brody. You see! They will never want me gone,” I gave him a confident smile, but the sympathetic look on his face was a mood killer. No way would the brothers let Brody marry me and take me with him.

However, I was determined to show him how wrong he was. They would never hurt me by asking me to leave. If anything, they would go crazy on the council for demanding my departure.

So, I left Brody in the room and went searching for the brothers. After failing to find them anywhere, I had only one place left to check.

One of the maids told me she had seen them go upstairs, all the way to the roof. We hadn’t used that area much, so it was surprising news, but I guessed their father must have sent them there to avoid hearing what was happening downstairs.

Ryker hadn’t come home yet, and I was worried about him. But right now, I needed to stay in this place so we could all work together and help Ryker recover from the trauma. I had so much planned for him. I would make him the happiest and even apologize for ever being rude to him.

All the times when he kept showing love and I used to get angry at him -even when he would jump in from the balcony and I hurt him with my words—I would make everything right. I just needed to stay.

Once I reached the rooftop, I found the brothers sitting together with

wine bottles in their hands. They seemed distraught.

“Stepbrothers!”

My voice sort of woke them up. They all shared a glance before turning their heads toward me. I quickly approached them, noticing Nash in his white shirt, Cain dressed in all black, and Silas wearing a gray hoodie.

“Thank goodness I found you. Do you know what’s going on?” I asked, standing beside them while they sat around a small table, watching me silently.

“No! Please tell us,” Nash’s voice had a bit of harshness in it, but I tried to avoid it.

Maybe they were drunk, but their bottles were not even half empty. Their eyes were shooting darts at me, making me wonder if they were upset with me about something.

Tasting 266

266—Just Go Away!

Nora:

Seeing them look at me was so odd now. Especially when their eyes were refusing to be honest.

“You should not be here,” the words from Cain’s mouth did little to me. I was here and ready to have a talk.

I avoided the awkwardness of their stares, thinking they were just being playful, and focused on the main topic at hand.

“The council and your dad told me to leave with Brody-” I paused to gauge their reactions, but when they didn’t show any, I added, “forever. Like they want him to accept me and then take me to his pack. Do you know what that means?”

I watched their faces one by one. Why weren’t they showing any shock or anger?

They used to get so worked up before, so what happened now?

“Umm, you wouldn’t bother us again?” Cain pouted, making me roll my eyes at him.

Thankfully, they were still making jokes, so I guessed everything was fine, and they might be able to help me stay back in the mansion.

“That means I will not be living here. They are kicking me out,” I leaned forward, raising my voice so they could hear me clearly.

“Ouch!” Silas dramatically put his finger in his ear before looking at

10:200

me and grunting, “You know your voice is already annoying, and when you talk like that, you actually sound even more irritating.”

He joked again, and I had to roll my eyes once more. Why weren’t they taking me seriously?

“Guys, they are kicking me out forever,” I repeated myself.

It hurt when I realized they might not even consider it to be true. Of course, it was just sad news, and they would take some time before adjusting to it.

“Besides, don’t be so dramatic. It’s not like they are kicking you out forever. You can always visit,” the minute Nash said that, I froze.

It was like someone had just flipped my entire world upside down.

“You know they are asking me to leave this pack?” I couldn’t even finish a full sentence without swallowing down the sadness.

“Of course. You think they would make a decision without our input?” Cain pointed a finger at his chest, scoffing at me.

“But—you guys are okay with it? You want me gone?” My voice dropped lower with every passing second.

“I think it’s for the best. With our girlfriends not liking you, it will be hard and awkward for them to come over and see your face instead,” Cain added with a shrug.

They knew, and they wanted me gone too?

“What? Don’t you think that’s a good choice? You should be on your way, Nora. We’ve tolerated you enough, but now we’re just getting tired of you. We want our girlfriends here, and your presence is

just ”

10210

Nash hissed, taking a sip to calm himself down.

“And it’s not like you will mark him, or he will mark you. You don’t have a wolf, so this acceptance on paper means nothing. Just go with him, enjoy the place like a vacation, and then come back months later,” Cain shrugged, not even taking it seriously. Or maybe he didn’t see it as a big deal.

“No! I don’t believe you guys. There’s no way you would want me gone,” My eyes fixated on Cain and Nash.

“I don’t know. I would want you to leave very much. Ever since the recent events, you’ve confirmed that you are as toxic as your mother. The only difference is that your mother died soon and—you don’t seem to give us that happiness very quickly,” Silas stood up, his words piercing through my chest.

I just watched him walk past me and drink from his bottle.

“Make sure you leave soon. I can’t wait for the house to be men-only again,” he walked downstairs after making it clear where he stood- definitely not with me.

I then turned to Cain, who quickly left after Silas. Now that Nash was the only one left, steadily getting up to leave, I decided to block his way and remind him that we were mates.

It was just that I didn’t want to leave so soon.

“You should not waste your energy and go pack your stuff. My brother is right, just enjoy Brody’s pack as a vacation spot,” he looked away when saying that, “at least you won’t be afraid of anyone

there.”

The little scoff and statement from him at the end broke my heart.

1021 D

Daphne’s plan had worked; now I knew why she asked for an apartment. She knew they wouldn’t ask me to stay in the apartment but

rather tell me to leave forever.

1021

267 No Rejection For Me

Tasting 267

267–No Rejection For Me

Nora:

Brody was nice, but his pack was entirely new to me. Not to mention, staying so far away from my mates would upset my wolf too.

How the hell would I comfort her then?

“Nash!” I stepped in his way, and his frown deepened. He looked so angry that for a second, I can’t even start talking. I wondered if blocking his path was the right move.

But then I forced myself, kicked my ego out of my life just to ask him. to help me stay here.

“You don’t want me gone,” I said confidently.

“Huh? What makes you say that?” he shrugged.

“Because we are mates,” I had to glance around to see if anyone was listening to us. I wouldn’t want anyone to overhear and then have Nash get angry when I needed his support so badly.

“I don’t remember such a thing. Why are you calling yourself my mate?” he inquired, but he looked straight into my eyes as if challenging

1. me.

The smirk on his lips as he tilted his head was like a taunt.

“You know that’s true. The Moon Goddess knows.” I attempted to remind him that she would be upset if he didn’t acknowledge his mate.

1021

267 No Rejection For Me

“Umm, nope! I don’t remember anything. All I remember is that you’re one nasty person. Someone who just wants attention and isn’t ready to be loyal to anyone. You weren’t even loyal to your own family, Nora. The minute you realized your monster father wasn’t good enough, you ran to hide in our mansion,” he was describing my flaws in a way only an enemy would have detailed them.

“If you’re angry about it, I swear I didn’t recognize him,” I tried to hold his hand, but he shrugged it off so harshly that he almost knocked me against the chair,

I least expected him to feel guilty and help me up, but he didn't do that.

I had to straighten my own back and balance myself to face him again. "Nash! What is going on with you? Why are you all treating me like this? I don't want to go with Brody. Please!!

I was now losing my self-esteem entirely.

Self-esteem and ego are two things that once you let them slide a little. they just keep falling until you've lost them.

That was the issue. I knew the minute I asked them to let me stay, it would turn into begging.

"Huh!" Nash shook his head, placed his bottle down, and grabbed my face in his hand, making me rise onto my toes.

"I don't want you. You are not worth my time, Nora. You were that slut's daughter, and you proved it. There is nothing in the world that will make me accept you ever, so forget about everything and leave with Brody. You wanted to date him anyway," as he shrugged, I gently pressed my fingers against his wrist to make him release me, but he didn't.

25/-No Rejection For Me

"I didn't. You and your father told me that was a good idea to clear- our names," I said through the pain. His nails were digging into my skin, leaving crescent moon marks.

He finally pushed me back and sighed.

"I don't remember such a thing. All I know is that you go with your boyfriend and let us live in peace," he grabbed his bottle, but another idea popped into my head this time.

"Then reject me if you truly are over me and don't want me, reject me," I insisted. Rejection was something that would make anyone. think about their actions. It wouldn't be that easy for him to hear me ask for rejection and not react to it. Or maybe I was overthinking.

Because he calmly shrugged and uttered, "Why would I reject you when we're not even mates? Do you have proof that we are mates?" There was a pout on his lips, almost mocking me for being a fool and thinking the Alpha King's brothers would ever accept having a mate who is a whistler's daughter.

"Now go, get out of my sight, and leave with your chosen mate," he even chuckled a bit as he mockingly walked past me.

I was left heavily bruised, with nothing coming to mind. But I had to stop. There was this part of me urging me to do something to stay here.

So after standing frozen in my spot for three minutes, I walked downstairs to have a word with my other mate who had left so quickly to avoid watching me beg before him.

I didn't even knock on the door before entering his studio, shocking him.

He was busy finishing a painting when he watched me enter and lock

52.86%

1021

257 No Rejection For Me

the door behind us.

10:21

Tasting 268

268—Offering Him My Body

Nora:

“What the fuck do you think you're doing?” he instantly jumped off his stool, grabbing a shirt and putting it on. A weird shiver ran down my spine. Did he think I was doing this to cause trouble for him? Or maybe to have someone catch us together so I could stay here?

No, I would never play games with them. They should have known this by now.

“I just want to talk,” I whispered because the way he aggressively walked toward me and grabbed my wrist made me fear he would kick me out without listening to me. I swiftly freed my arm and ran behind the big table near the window.

“What the heck is this? What kind of childish behavior is this, Nora?” he continued to grunt and groan, trying to catch me.

“I just want to talk. Please! Don't make me go away.” I didn't know why I was resisting so hard. It's not like they were sending me back home. So then why?

Why was my body and mind so resistant to leaving them? Was my wolf fearful that she might never feel the presence of her mates if we left the pack?

are

“Fucking hell, Nora. We already talked about it. And the way you are acting is making me believe we are making the right decision. You have lost your mind entirely. Look at yourself, acting like a whore, throwing yourself at your brothers and asking them to stop you from leaving with your boyfriend,” he aggressively muttered, his hand

1021D

268—Offering Him My Body

gestures raw and forceful.

“I will behave. That’s what I wanted to say to you. I will behave from now on and will even be nice to your mates. All of your mates. I won’t even bother you. In fact—if you want—” I paused when he raised his brow, waiting to see what I was going to say next.

I didn’t want to say it, but how else could I convince him?

“You can do whatever you want with my body, and I won’t complain.” Those words came out in a dying whisper from my lips.

Instead of looking intrigued like he usually did whenever he talked about my body, he seemed disgusted this time.

That wasn’t a good thing. He was supposed to be happy.

“I won’t even ask for acceptance. In fact, nobody would know. You can do everything—with my body. Have sex—use—” I stopped when he threw the brush at me from across the table, hitting me right on my chin.

“Ouch!” As I lost my train of thought, he ran around the table to grab

1. me.

“Have you gone mad? You think I’m some bastard who would want a sex toy? If that’s what I wanted, I could get sex every day. What makes you think your body is something I would want? I

told you, it’s not worth it. Your body is not worth all the trouble I’ve gone through. Why can’t you just fucking get it?” he shook my body, muttering those words in my face.

“But—” I couldn’t say anything else since he would shake me into

silence.

1021 D

258–Offering Him My Body

“The fact that you think I’m such a manwhore just saddens me. This is why you need to leave, Nora. Leave this place while you still have some dignity left. Your body is not a toy that I want to use,” he hissed, finally pushing me back and letting me go.

“Now go!” he yelled, and when I didn’t move, he grasped my arm again. and started dragging me towards the door.

“I’m sick and tired of finding you in every corner of my home, looking at me. I don’t want your attention. Do you have any idea if I had left. any other girl like this after sleeping with her and dating her friend, she would have been so angry and chosen her self–esteem? But you surprised me. You don’t even fucking love yourself. Grow some spine, Nora!” he opened the door while spitting out the most painful words, then shoved me out. Once he ensured I was out, he locked the door so I couldn’t get back inside.

I stood outside, rubbing my palms and hyperventilating.

This was not right.

This shouldn’t have happened.

I just need to stay here.

I turned around and spotted Silas coming upstairs with a slice of pizza in his hand, enjoying some video on his phone. The fact that they didn’t even appear distraught at my departure was killing me.

10:21

Tasting 269

269–Not Even Silas!

Nora:

It was time I begged some more. I guess the Moon Goddess wanted me to use all my might and then see for myself that I did everything, but it was supposed to happen.

Maybe if none of them stopped me from leaving, that will be the last time I would ever consider staying with them. But I wished someone would stop me.

“Silas! Please! You should understand. You treat patients, right? You would know when someone feels like they belong

somewhere,” I stepped in his path and began to murmur, hoping he would empathize with the pain I was feeling.

But he didn’t.

He shoved his phone into his pocket and grabbed my arm, leaving another bruise to join the ones his brothers had already inflicted on my skin.

“Yeah! And I’m making a diagnosis right here and right now. You’re mentally ill, Nora! You crave attention. I know why you don’t want to leave this mansion—because Brody’s place won’t have as many people for you to bother. You want everyone to suffer. And why are you asking for my help when you wrote in the files that I was the one who planned Mia’s murder? Huh? And now you want my help?” The scoff he let out blew air in my face.

0.00%

|||

15:42

“Nora, all I’m saying

good time—you’re making us—” He clenched his jaw, and I watched his veins pop up, but he quickly looked away.

“Just go for now, please!” It was as if he was begging, but with a harsh tone.

“Just give me one chance,” I raised a finger to plead, but he tightened his jaw and began dragging me back to my room.

“We have suffered enough because of you. We don’t want Ryker to see your face when he returns. He wants you gone, and we want you gone, so please don’t make it difficult. Leave the doors open—” He didn’t even slow down until he kicked my bedroom door open and threw me inside. However, he hadn’t finished what he was going to say.

Brody quickly rushed over and caught me, preventing a bad fall.

“The fuck—” Before Brody could yell at him, Silas hissed and silenced him.

“Keep your girlfriend on a leash. She’s going around begging everyone to let her stay. And you know? Because her heart is scared to leave with you. I wonder why? Does she

not trust you?" He wrinkled his nose as he delivered those words to Brody, then slammed the door behind him and vanished from sight.

I cried on Brody's chest, and he didn't ask why Silas had said all those things. Recent events had weakened me.

And since I hadn't completed my wolf transition, I was even more vulnerable now.

30.28%

o

15:41

r

969 Not Even Silas!

288 Vouchers

"Calm down," he rubbed my back, and I finally broke the hug just so I could tell him this wasn't what I meant when I said I didn't want to leave the pack.

"You must think I'm such a horrible girlfriend, going around— begging to stay here just so I don't have to leave with you," I was hiccuping from crying so much.

"No!" He steadily shook his head and wiped my tears. "I'm not one of those people who doesn't understand anything. I know why you don't want to leave. You told me when we got into this relationship that you weren't ready for anything serious yet. And now they're forcing this relationship on you that they

themselves suggested. I know the pain you're in right now, Nóra. And I'm just—trying to find a way to ease it for you," he said all the right things,

The things I wanted to hear from my stepfather, from my stepbrother, and from my mates.

I suddenly stopped crying but was still sniffing a little.

"They took my phone away. Maybe if I could speak to Ryker—he could convince them," I said, since Brody seemed to understand my struggle to stay here.

"I'm not sure if he would pick up, but since he's still with the council, I can give them a call and say you want to talk to him. If that's what you want," he said softly and very kindly.

“I would like that, please,” I muttered, and he pulled out his phone.

65.36%

Tasting 270

270—I Will Leave This Home Behind Now

Nora:

He dialed the number and informed the council that Ryker was receiving a call from home. Then he handed me the phone and gestured that he would wait outside so I could speak with Ryker in private.

I gripped the phone tightly, pressing it against my ear, eager to speak with him.

“Yes?” Ryker answered, and a bright smile spread across my lips.

“Ryker!” I said his name, hoping it would trigger memories of our time together. However, he first went silent and then groaned into the phone.

“Why are you calling me?” The harshness in his voice should have been a warning, but I continued to deceive myself—or maybe I just needed to confirm that nobody was willing to let me stay.

“They’re sending me away,” I muttered, my voice breaking as tears began to flow like a waterfall.

“You called me to say this? For fuck’s sake, Nora. I’m dealing with my own problems, and you’re crying about yourself? It’s not like you’ll be stuck. You can always come and visit us,” was all I heard before I gasped and closed my eyes.

I didn’t know what to say until an idea popped into my mind.

0.00%

|||

O

<

1542

“What if I say I’m ready to reject both Cain and Nash for you?”

The moment I said that, I heard him go silent.

“What did you say?” His tone shifted slightly, so I straightened my spine. Maybe he was listening because it was something he cared about.

“I will reject Cain and Nash for you,” I repeated, but with much more confidence this time.

However, he remained silent before asking in a chilling voice, “You’re mated with Nash? When the fuck did you find out? And were you ever going to tell me if it wasn’t for the council sending you away?”

I covered my mouth with one hand as I remembered he didn’t know about Nash.

“I was going to—” Before I could finish, he groaned.

“I want you gone. Just fucking leave. Even if you reject everyone, I still won’t accept you. I’m happy with April—you need to get this through your thick head and leave me alone. If you have to prove you love me and want me, stay with Brody for a few months and not let him touch you. That will be a test for you. And if you fucking tell anyone that you’re mates with me and my brothers—you’ve seen my wolf—” As his threat began to make my body shudder, I hung up the call out of fear.

There was no going back from here. He told me he wouldn’t accept me even if I fulfilled his demands now.

Why?

28.85%

111

15420

2701 Will Leave This Home Behind Now

I offered peace, my body, and even acceptance to my mates, but they still wouldn’t choose me

Brody walked back inside and hunched over as he sat down to check on me. I returned his phone and kept my head down before throwing myself at him and sobbing into his chest.

“He misbehaved?” he asked in disbelief.

“They don’t want me here, Brody. They’re all so bitter—they think I’m a slut—a whore—everything worse,” I zoned out as their words echoed through my mind.

“Hey!” Brody had to hold my arms and shake me gently to get my attention.

“Screw the world and come with me. You’ll live like a queen in my pack without having to sleep in my bed or fulfill any duties as a girlfriend,” he said, and I hiccupped, trying to stop my crying.

“I know you’re afraid of this big move. But do you really think this palace is your home? Nora! I’ll show them how to treat someone who’s a gem. I’ll treat you the way you deserve to be treated. I won’t even touch you, and if at any point you fall for someone else, I’ll reject you and let you live freely. Because that’s how much I love you. I can lose you just so you can be happy. But I will never fucking hurt you. And I will never allow you to beg before anyone ever again,” he finished, his words gradually comforting me and stopping my tears.

“Now come on, let’s pack your things and leave for a place where there’s respect and a home for you,” he stood up and extended his hand to me. I stared at it for a moment before gently taking it.

61.72%

|||

Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates #Tasting 271 - Read Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates Tasting 271

Tasting 271

271–Selling Me

Nora:

Brody had helped me pack all my things. I stayed in bed, even dozing off while he took care of everything.

I didn’t want to get up or do anything. My heart was shattered by the harsh words of my mates and my stepbrother. It truly broke me.

“Wake up! You’re going to meet someone special tonight.” However, my sleep was abruptly interrupted when someone nudged me awake.

I rubbed my eyes to see who it was—my brother.

“Who? I don’t want to meet anyone,” I groaned, wishing he would leave. Whenever he came to my room, it was usually bad

news.

Not only would he make me do things, but he’d also make sure I got caught. If I got caught, I’d get a beating from my father; if I didn’t, then my brother would beat me instead.

I was exhausted with my life and everything happening in it.

“Come on, just grab your robe and come with me,” he insisted, punching my arm until he shattered my sleep completely and then threw my black silk robe at me.

I had no choice but to follow him. If I made any noise and woke

up Dad, my brother would make up some excuse and get me in

0.00%

|||

<

15:42

trouble.

Not that my father was stupid, but he would rather believe my brother’s story than mine. That’s just how it was,

He liked his kids to be powerful the kind who could overpower the Alpha King’s brothers. But I didn’t want to fight anyone,

I was never going to be as powerful as the Alpha King’s brothers or even my own brother.

But I had to follow him into the woods.

“Where are we going?” I whispered, my heart pounding in my chest. I was only fifteen, and venturing into the woods was dangerous.

But since my brother was with me, I had some faith in my survival. He would never let his favorite toy die.

“We are partying together tonight,” that was shocking to hear.

After a few minutes of walking, we stopped in front of a cabin where lights could be seen and music could be heard.

“What is this place?” I asked again, but my brother’s grip around my wrist tightened as he led me to the door.

A gentle knock, and the door opened, revealing a sixteen-year-old with black hair and tattoos all over his body.

He had a cigarette in his mouth as he scanned me from head to

toe.

“Hm! What’s going on?” he asked my brother, who smirked, almost presenting me like a prize.

26.48%

111

15.43

288 (Vouchers

“I brought her,” my brother said, showing me off so awkwardly that I tried to hide behind him.

“Hmm! How much for her?” The question made my heart sink in my chest.

“Depends on how many hours she can keep going. You can enjoy the candies as long as I’m enjoying her,” the guy said with a shrug, and my heart sank further.

My brother was selling me to this guy for some stupid drugs.

“Wait! I didn’t sign up for this,” I protested, stepping away from my brother. The guy turned to him, giving him a judgmental look.

“She just got scared,” my brother offered a weak smile, trying to excuse himself while he grabbed my arm to pull me aside and have a word with me.

“What the fuck are you doing? Just please him, keep him busy in different positions, and that will be it. Why are you being so dramatic? It will toughen you up,” he hissed in my ear, my eyes locked on the guy.

“No! I don’t want to. You’re selling your own sister?” I was in disbelief and disgust. Up until now, I thought he was just a bastard who was mentally sick and loved to torture me. But I didn’t know he would take his craziness one step further and hurt me like this.

“Hey!” the guy snapped his fingers after seeing us interact. “I don’t think she wants to do this. Let her go. We don’t want any trouble or any non-consensual stuff. Bring money, or you won’t get anything.”

\$5.20%

15:43

271 Selling Me

I was shocked at how my brother acted.

288 Vouchers

It was the first time I thought we were going to do something together, maybe enjoy a party, but I had no idea this was what he had planned for me. I couldn’t even cry out loud now.

Thankfully, the guy had more morals than my own brother. As he shut the door in my brother’s face, a hard slap landed on my cheek.

“Ouch!” I placed my hand on my cheek and then woke up, lifting my head from the pillow instead. Thankfully, my brother was not in my view.

Tasting 272

272–One Big Goodbye

Nora:

It was yet another nightmare. Even if I had considered going back home, this nightmare reminded me that I couldn’t.

Brody was sleeping on the couch with everything prepared and placed in the corner of the room. I grabbed my blanket and covered him up before quietly making my way to the window to stare outside.

I wasn’t sure if Akira would be ready to talk, so I didn’t twist the ring on my finger. It was better for her to remain clueless.

Soon, I too fell asleep and was awakened by a knock on the door.

“Lord Atwood wants to meet you downstairs,” the maid announced from the other side of the door.

“I’ll go see what’s going on. You go freshen up for breakfast,” Brody jumped off the couch and left the room. I took a shower and noticed how swollen my eyes were. I could barely keep them open at this point.

It hurt my soul on another level, knowing that I had begged them the previous day, crushed my own ego under theirs, only to be humiliated.

After dressing in a plain gray dress, I left the bathroom and saw Brody.

0.00%

||

15:43

11 283 Wortes

“Umm...” He scratched the back of his neck.

Lord Atwood must have asked him to call me for breakfast with the family one last time.

“The cars are ready,” he said, and a frown creased my forehead.

“It’s alright. We can have breakfast on the way anyway.” I knew why he was avoiding my gaze—he knew another hope of mine had died.

There was no farewell for me. Not anymore.

I nodded and followed him. I had cried so much that there were no more tears left in my eyes.

I felt so cold in my heart that the outside weather didn’t really matter anymore. When I reached downstairs, I noticed that none of the brothers had woken up to say goodbye to me.

“They were out late, celebrating Ryker’s return, so they’re sleeping in for the day,” Lord Atwood must have noticed that I was glancing around.

I gave him a nod and then lowered my head.

“I hope you two will have a good life ahead. And it’s not like we’re kicking her out. Sure, we were upset about things, but she’ll be coming with you every time you return to this pack for work anyway,” Lord Atwood said, finally giving me a bit of good news.

Why didn't they say it like that before?

I mean, of course, things won't be the same anymore, but I'll be in this pack four days a week. Somehow, I felt like a fool for crying so much, but still, it was the way they asked me to leave

28.25%

<

15:43

288 Vouchers

that had hurt me.

"And stop crying; you'll lose your sight," Lord Atwood chided, and I realized he had been noticing my eyes all this time.

"I'll take care of her and will bring her here when I come to stay in the pack," Brody promised Lord Atwood, who sneakily

glanced my way.

"You can also keep her in the apartment when you come here and then join us at the palace for lunch sometimes," there it was—once again, a request that I don't enter their home.

But lunch would be fine too. Even staying in the apartment would mean I'd still be in this pack.

"And you'll be taking her to the council's building first, I hope you don't forget," Lord Atwood added, though he wasn't directly addressing me.

"For the acceptance, I know." Brody nodded.

I just wasn't sure how that would work. Can I have a chosen mate without being rejected by my fated mates?

I turned to the mansion and stared at it in silence. I remembered the first day I came here. It had been a rough day at school. I was brutally bullied, but then Lord Atwood came like a hero and took me away from all the cruel people. He treated me so well.

That first day was so funny.

Cain thought I was his model. He said he had never been so aroused before. Was that a lie?

63.81%

|||

15:43

288 Nouchers

Nash had complimented me so many times. Did he just do it for the sake of tasting his mate once?

And what about Ryker?

Tasting 273

273—He Might Die

Nora:

All the times he showed he loved me desperately, saying he couldn't bear to see me with someone else—what about that?

Silas!

He said if I wasn't his stepsister, he would take me to the ball. The one who had never shown interest in any she-wolf had said those words about me. Were those lies too?

"Nora?" Brody gently nudged me awake, and I saw the door he was holding open for me.

I nodded, but first, I turned to hug Lord Atwood one last time and say goodbye. However, the moment I rushed dramatically in his direction, he extended his hand for a handshake, stopping me from hugging him.

"Oh! You're not even going to—" I nodded my head, hoping he would realize his mistake and hug me instead. But he didn't do that. I was shocked and so broken. Why bring me here if you're just going to kick me out and then not even feel a bit sad about it? I noticed Brody gave me a sad smile, probably the only one who had any sympathy for me.

"Oh!" I felt so lost. But then I composed myself and shook his hand. His touch was fatherly to me.

Meeting them was the biggest happiness of my life. But as expected, life always takes back what it gives. Maybe I don't

0.00%

|||

16:28

27214e Might Dis

truly cherish things when I should have. I don't know.

288 iVouchers

"Goodbye," Lord Atwood said, but this time I didn't respond. I slid into the passenger seat beside Brody, who stayed outside with Lord Atwood to say a proper farewell before rushing to the driver's side and getting in.

Once the car started, I couldn't help but watch the mansion with teary eyes. Even when the tears started to blur my vision, I quickly wiped them away to keep seeing the sight of the mansion before it disappeared.

And then it did disappear.

I sank into my seat and stared at the road ahead. The valley of my heart had suddenly gone silent.

Everything felt like a burden. Every minute we spent in the car made me feel like I should have stayed in the mansion. They shouldn't have kicked me out like that. Leaving without a rejection and now being accepted by a chosen mate—I don't know what kind of disaster is in the making now.

"We're summoned by the council! I hope you have no issue with that," Brody said, and even if I had an issue, it's not like I could do anything about it.

However, I felt compelled to ask him this question because it was weighing heavily on my heart.

"What if... I have a fated mate somewhere?" I uttered, gulping down with difficulty. My lips were so dry that when I tried to open my mouth wider, they bled a little. I had to rub my tongue over them to moisten them.

31.69%

||

O

<

16:28

288 Vouchers

“What?” Brody turned to me, then back to the road.

“You know we all have fated mates somewhere. So I want to know—” I paused, noticing the concern in his eyes. Of course, he would be worried. Imagine if my fated mate shows up one day and insists that I accept him. He wouldn’t know that I’ve already found my fated mates, but still...

“Can I be accepted by a chosen mate if I have a fated mate somewhere out there?” I inquired again, and he shrugged before dramatically letting out a sigh.

“If you do that—a disaster would come,” my heart sank, and then he continued, “the chosen mate will die if you choose him while you have a fated mate somewhere out there.”

My eyes widened at his words, shock gave me goosebumps, and my body turned cold.

Does that mean if I accept Brody, he will die? But then why the heck was he agreeing to it?

“You need to stop—” I muttered in shock, but I couldn’t finish the sentence as we arrived at the council’s office.

“Brody—” I watched his face with concern, wondering why it didn’t bother him that he might die if I accepted him and had a fated mate out there.

Just when he was about to get out, he saw my face and decided to stay.

68.46%

224 A Bad Ceremony

Tasting 274

274—A Sad Ceremony

Nora:

“Brody! What are you saying?” I asked, my eyes wide and tears forming. How could he be so comfortable saying something so dangerous? It could cost him his life.

“What happ—” he paused and nodded when he realized why I looked so terrified. “Oh! I was just joking. There’s no such thing as a chosen mate dying or whatever,” he laughed, clapping his hands together.

“You scared me,” I said, relieved as his joke cheered me up a little. I managed to smile as he held my hand.

“You’ll be fine. They’ll soon realize their mistake, and I’m sure the next time you return, they’ll even ask you to stay longer,” his soft, comforting voice gave me hope. One would think I wouldn’t want to go back, but I did. My body and mind desperately wanted to be with my mates again. Just their scents had been enough to comfort Akira and help her cope with not being able to transition.

“Now come on, let’s get this done so we can start our journey already,” he said gently.

I didn’t want to be seen as fragile, but the recent events had left me shaken and miserable. As I followed him, I made sure to stay close behind. It wasn’t easy to act like I wasn’t hurting, but I was determined to make it work. Reaching the entrance and seeing Yuki again felt heavy, bringing back flashes of that

0.00%

|||

Γ

16:28

274—A Sad Ceremony

1 288 (Vouchers

horrible day. I haven’t been able to sit in peace and recall every detail of that day, including Mr. Ford.

“Alpha Brody Donovan of the Silver Jaw pack, please proceed with the acceptance,” Yuki said tiredly. I guess my court–mating ceremony wasn’t really their main concern.

Brody turned to me and gave me an apologetic smile before holding my hands. I never thought my mating ceremony would happen like this—swollen eyes, broken dreams, and with a man I only saw as a friend despite trying so hard to fall for him.

“I, Alpha Brody Donovan from the Silver Jaw pack, accept Nora as my mate and the Luna of this pack,” he declared.

My body shuddered slightly, but I kept calm and acted as if I was fine. I hadn’t paid much attention to the mate bond topics in school, and now I was being accepted by a chosen mate when my fated mates hadn’t been very cooperative.

“I, Nora, accept Alpha Brody Donovan as my mate and Alpha,” I mumbled, nodding my head, thinking this was probably the right thing to do now. I had begged and pleaded with the others to let me stay, so there wasn’t much left to do but accept my fate.

“Please mark her now,” Yuki said to Brody, gesturing with his hand. I stepped back and watched their faces, wondering what they were planning. They had only talked about accepting me—I didn’t

know he would be asked to mark me, especially since I wasn’t sure how I would mark him back.

“Is there a problem?” Brody asked, his eyes scanning the hesitation in my body language.

“I don’t have a wolf. How would I mark you back?” I questioned

32.84%

<

16:28

288 Vouchers

274A Sad Ceremony

their methods, wondering if he would be okay with not being marked back.

“That will be fine. Whenever you get your wolf, just mark him then. Now come on,” Yuki rolled his eyes, probably frustrated by the fact that I was taking longer than he had anticipated.

“But—I wasn’t told—” I gulped, looking around in confusion.

“You were told about marking and acceptance. You probably don’t remember, just like you don’t remember your own father,” his sarcasm made me lower my head and close my eyes, taking a deep breath. The more I stayed here, the more this man would taunt and become aggressive with me. So, the only option left was to just do it.

“It wouldn’t make much difference. We’ve already accepted each other,” Brody said. He was right and seemed irritated standing next to Yuki. Yuki was always like this. He never really cared about

Omegas and thought only the men of the pack were valuable. The she-wolves were always disregarded by him. But since he had previously been an Alpha King, everyone respected his words. The fact that he had willingly given up his crown added to his mystique.

72174

275-Leaving Unmarked

Nora:

“I am ready,” I finally conceded, pushing my hair off my shoulder, stretching my neck to one side, and closing my eyes. I was in my human form, so I was aware of the pain I would feel once his canines pierced through my skin.

Brody had worn a very apologetic smile all this time. He knew I didn’t want to do this, but I was compelled to in order to avoid being taken advantage of or exposed by someone random from the pack. Running away into the woods wasn’t an option either. With the monsters lurking around, how long could I stay there? And if I let Akira out, the packs would add my name to the hit list alongside the other monsters

Brody wrapped one arm around my back and buried his face in my neck. He then pressed his sharp teeth into my skin, causing me to close my eyes and wince in extreme pain.

“Ow!” I mouthed as the pain intensified. I thought it would ease with time, but then I realized he didn’t push his teeth deep in, almost like only trying to show it to the council that he had marked me. Soon, everything began to blur. What was happening to me?

Was it because my wolf feared he would mark me while I still had my fated mates connected to me? I didn’t understand what was happening to me at this point.

However, I couldn’t really ask this question to anyone because I soon lost consciousness. The whispering wind and the noise of the honks woke me up. I stirred in my seat and looked around to find Brody sitting outside on the side of the road with the car parked nearby and the door to my side open.

“Ah!” I grimaced in pain and opened my eyes to alert him that I was awake. He smiled and got up, his body hunched over my door to check on me.

“Are you awake now?” he asked.

“I am, but what happened to me, and where am I?” I glanced at the busy road ahead and then turned to Brody.

“Back at the council’s court, you passed out. I took you to the hospital, and they said you needed rest and some food,” he spoke in a soft and gentle voice. His hand held mine lovingly and rubbed it with concern.

“Thank you for not marking me,” I said with a broken smile, and he winked at me.

“It was so tempting,” he admitted. I knew how badly he had wanted to mark me all this time, yet he respected my choice and held back. My heart was filled with comfort, but then I remembered an excuse that might allow me to go back home.

“Then we should have stayed at the mansion for today. Why are we on this journey when I passed out?” If I were in my right senses, I wouldn’t have asked him that and upset him. He was doing so much, and I wanted to be grateful, but part of me was still reluctant to leave.

“I did call them and informed them of the situation.” He looked away subtly, as if to avoid making eye contact with me.

“And? What did they say?” I asked, curiously studying his face. If the brothers had found out I was in this state, they would definitely not have recommended traveling.

“They didn’t want you back for some time. They said it wasn’t serious and that it was fine for us to continue traveling. You can visit them after a few days,” he said, taking little pauses to avoid looking my way. I bet he couldn’t see the disappointment on my face.

“Oh! Maybe it’s because of—well, you know, Ryker’s case? They’ll have to take care of a lot of things to bring him back home and manage the aftermath,” I suggested, offering a plausible excuse for why they might not want me back just yet.

“I think so too.” Suddenly, Brody seemed energized. He rushed to the driver’s side, shut the door, and started the car again.

“Really? You also think that’s why they didn’t want me back home?” I noticed that whenever I asked him such questions, he looked sad, but the moment I came up with an excuse, he seemed relieved. But all things aside, I was now going with him to his pack.

Tasting 276

276—A New Pack, New Troubles

Nora:

I wasn't sure why, but was he happy that I was content, no matter the circumstances?

"I think so. They do care about you. I mean, come on, we all know how possessive they used to be about you. And then—of course, with everything going on in the mansion, they probably think you'd suffer along with them if you stayed there," he said, and I liked whatever I was hearing.

That has to be it.

They definitely sent me away for a while. Now that Brody agreed with it, I felt much more at ease. Or I convinced myself that was the case.

"Once we get home, I'll get you a phone and laptop. You shouldn't stop studying or lose contact with the people you know," he continued, and I nodded even though I could only reach out to the brothers and my stepfather.

There was no one else in my life anymore.

Natalya and April only made friends with me until they were not in my stepbrother's lives. After they achieved that goal, they did everything in their power to get rid of me.

"I don't want you to misunderstand, but Brody—you do realize I'm not with you because of love, right? I mean, we can give it a try, but we shouldn't expect too much too

37A New Park, He# Troubles

clarify this so he wouldn't have too many hopes.

1 288 Vouchers

"I am not offering you my loyalty or love," it would be stupid of me to jump into another relationship before clearing my past and my mind.

"I know that. And even so, I'm ready to treat you the way you deserve. So don't worry, doing anything for you doesn't mean you owe me anything in return," he smiled to himself, and with that, the rest of our journey passed peacefully.

However, it took us nearly a full day to travel by car. I couldn't wrap my head around the fact that I would have to travel so much to meet my mates and Lord Atwood again.

But I was certain that now I was far away, they must be missing me. They must realize what they've done and how they've hurt me. However, as the distance between me and my mate's grew, my body got restless. the feeling of horror creeping in on me left me stunned.

It was just a matter of time before they came here to ask me to come back. I'd show a little resistance because of how

humiliating it was when they shoved me away, but I'd eventually accept the offer since I knew they only did it because they were stressed out themselves.

Upon arriving at his pack, I began to look around. It was a valley where his pack resided. The tall mountains and rugged terrain captivated me.

"You like it?" Brody knew I was smiling because I liked the land.

"It's beautiful. I didn't know your pack was in such a gorgeous place," my compliment brightened his smile. He straightened

30.20%

14.39

370 A New Pack, New Troubles

288 Vouchers

proudly before adjusting in his seat.

"This used to be a very rich land, Nora. The mountains have so many herbs that can be used for various medicines. Basically, you're looking at the richest land in the North." For a second, everything went silent, and all I could hear in my head was one name:

Alpha King Silas.

He was destined to rule all the packs of the North.

I straightened my back and shook the thoughts away to be more present for Brody.

"Then you guys must be thriving?" I asked, but my words trailed off when I saw the condition of the houses. They weren't very fancy.

In fact, most of them were so old and shabby that I wondered if they could withstand any storm or earthquake.

"Sadly, that's not the case. The mountains are occupied by strange creatures, so everything precious is kind of out of our reach," he said, stopping the car in front of a beautiful gray mansion. It wasn't too big, but it was fancy enough to make my jaw drop.

"Weird creatures?" However, my focus returned to the main topic.

“Yeah! Just stay away from the mountains. Our pack members don’t bother those creatures, and in return, they don’t bother us,” he advised, getting out of the car and holding the door open for me.

67.41%

276—A New Pack, New Troubles

1288 Vou

I was now about to meet the pack members, who didn’t seem very welcoming.

Tasting 277

277—Not Welcomed In His Pack

Nora:

Brody’s warriors stepped ahead and grabbed our bags while the pack members didn’t even move a muscle. They stayed at a distance, simply watching us. I felt a bit odd, almost getting a feeling of not being welcomed in their pack.

“Come on,” Brody wrapped his arm around my back, guiding me inside, while my head was still twisted in the direction of his people. They didn’t even come forward to say a word. Some of them just stared while the others kept whispering into each other’s ears.

“Aren’t you going to introduce me to them?” I inquired as we entered the mansion, and the sight of the pack members was blocked.

“Of course. After you take a shower and get ready for dinner. The night is upon us, and we’ve prepared a huge feast for your arrival,” Brody continued to usher me away from the entrance, which only made me more curious. Once we reached the second floor, he held a door open for me and gestured for the guards to unload my belongings there.

It was the second master bedroom, a large space with a beautiful view of the mountains from the balcony.

“This is so beautiful,” I found myself saying again, thinking I might eventually get tired of praising how pretty the area was.

277 Not Welcomed In His Pack

288 Vouchers

"I knew you would like it. My bedroom is on the first floor. If you need anything, just call for my guards or—oh, I need to get you a phone quickly," he said, scratching the back of his neck.

"Your Highness, the royal beta wants to have a word with you," one of the warriors interrupted, speaking in a rather suspicious tone, almost as if he was trying to avoid looking at me.

"I'll go see what's going on. You take a shower and rest, okay?" Brody gently caressed my cheek before following his warrior outside. I stayed behind for a few moments, but curiosity got the better of me, and I couldn't stay put any longer.

I found myself leaving the room to see if everything was okay. Of course, the way they had all been looking at me was unsettling. Some gave unwelcoming stares, so I wanted to know if everything was fine and if they had any concerns about a new addition to their pack.

As I walked downstairs, I heard a bit of a commotion in the living room.

"Why?" It was a man's voice, someone complaining.

"Rollo, I told you she's here to stay, and my decision will be respected. She will be respected here," Brody spoke softly, but the authority in his voice was unmistakable.

"I don't get it. What was the emergency? Why did you bring her here before speaking to your pack members? Do they not mean anything to you at all?" The man kept arguing, making me wonder what the real issue was.

Was it Brody not informing his pack members of my arrival, or was it about me?

31.71%

14:39

T

18 228 thres

Did they not want me here at all?

"It all happened so immediately that I wasn't given a chance to contact any of you. Her life was at risk; I couldn't sit back and call you guys to gossip. Is that what you wanted me to do?" Brody's voice suddenly rose, signaling that he was growing tired of the argument.

"Then how are you going to convince your people that this

needed to be done? That she's not here to cause any trouble?" The man named Rollo pressed, causing Brody to sigh deeply and exhale slowly.

I peeked out from behind the wall to see who this man was. He appeared to be in his early thirties, with long black hair and a mustache. He was muscular, with a tattoo of a tree vine running from behind his ear to his temple.

"She's not a troublemaker. She never was. But she was in trouble. Don't worry about the pack members; I'll have a word with them, and they'll understand," Brody shook his head, looking much younger in front of this man.

"And—you need to make sure nobody hurts her feelings. I won't allow it, Rollo. No one!" There was a tense moment of eye contact between them when Brody warned him, perhaps about someone specific who could upset me.

Tasting 278

278 Treating Me With Care

288 Mon here

278—Treating Me With Care

Nora:

I didn't want to stay here any longer and eavesdrop, but unfortunately, Rollo suddenly turned to the side and

acknowledged my presence, forcing me to step forward and make myself known.

"Is there a problem because of me?" The moment my voice echoed through the empty hall, Brody turned to look at me.

"No! Everything is fine," he instantly approached me, causing Rollo to roll his eyes.

To be honest, he looked pretty hostile. The way he kept scanning me from head to toe was also unsettling.

"The pack members don't like you," he spoke confidently from behind Brody, who turned around and looked at him in disbelief.

"Rollo!" Brody yelled with a hint of disappointment.

"What? I'm just telling her because if somebody gives her attitude, she should know why," Rollo replied, eerily confident and honest, even when standing before his alpha.

“Thank you for your honesty. Now, let me have a conversation with her,” Brody gestured for him to leave, and the big guy walked away. He was so tall and broad too.

“What’s going on? Why don’t they like me?” I inquired of Brody, who was scratching his forehead and sighing non-stop.

0.00%

|||

16:52

O

<

“They know you as Ryker’s stepsister. And you know what went down in this pack when Ryker was here the last time,” he

finished, not even looking my way

Lunderstood now why they must hate me. In their minds, Ryker was guilty of killing the Beta’s daughter—Brody’s fated mate. Of course, they weren’t happy to have me here.

“It’s alright. I understand their concern. And I’m sure with time they’ll realize I’m not here to upset anyone,” giving Brody a close-lipped smile, I walked back upstairs to change and take a shower.

Entering the bathroom felt so awkward. This place didn’t feel like home.

‘Okay! Please don’t be mad at me,’ I finally let her out, twisting the ring on my finger, but all I heard from her was silence.

‘Akira! I’m sorry,’ I said, hoping she would talk this time. But she was oddly silent, something she had never done before.

I had taken a shower, put on a brown dress, braided my hair from the sides with some loose strands, and left the rest to dance freely on my back and shoulders. All the while, I was calling out for her and waiting for her response. But Akira never spoke to me again. She had gone silent as if she never existed, and that worried me. Even though she was so quiet, I had to adjust the ring on my finger because I feared she might jump out during dinner and start the transition.

“All ready?” Brody peeked his head inside with a smile on his lips. I gave him a nod, and he stepped inside.

“Wow! It’s so unfair for me to have such a gorgeous Luna and

29.00%

|||

16:52

not be able to flirt with her,” he joked as he watched me apply lip balm. I gave him a playful eye roll. Even though I was so

stressed and worried about nearly everything going wrong in my life, I managed to look happy with him.

He was doing so much that if I kept complaining about being here, he would think I hated it.

“Here! Your new cellphone, and this has all the contact numbers of the—Red Storm Pack, including your stepfather and stepbrothers,” he handed me a diary and then a phone.

“Thank you so much, Brody. You have no idea how much this means to me,” I quickly accepted the phone, and the diary was going to come in handy. I wanted to talk to Lord Atwood and apologize to

him if I had caused him any grief.

“Now! Shall we go attend dinner? The pack members are waiting,” he watched me put the diary down with great care because my stepbrothers’ numbers were in it.

I then straightened my back, took the phone out of the box, and smiled at him, “Thank you.”

With that, I got on my tiptoes and kissed his cheek.

“Ah! It was worth it,” he smiled, gently touching his cheek.

He was so sweet and innocent. I felt bad that he had to do so much to get my attention, yet I wasn’t entirely his.

“Let’s go,” now that I had my phone and could contact the brothers, I wrapped my arm around his and walked out of the room with him.

Tasting 279

79 Who is She?

288 (Vouchers

279–Who Is She?

Nora:

Soon we were downstairs and heading to the backyard. I hadn't seen that part of the mansion yet. The garden was lit with lights and other decorations, with many lanterns hanging down from the big trees. There were small tables with chairs and then one large table with chairs for the elders and the alpha of the pack. Or in simple terms, for the pack's officials.

"Wow, this looks so pretty," I complimented Brody's hard work and he smiled in return.

"Have a seat," Brody very respectfully slid my chair out and helped me.

He then sat right next to me at the head of the table. The others sitting around were already staring at me, examining my every move and making me slightly uncomfortable.

"I think i need to explain," he cleared his throat, adjusting his posture in his seat.

"You all must know that I recently started dating a very special young lady. She is so captivating that from the day I saw her until now, I cannot express how much my heart beats for her. Today, I brought her here to meet all of you and to stay here as the Luna of the pack that she is," as he started announcing, I kept looking around to see everyone's expressions.

They didn't look too pleased, but there were forced smiles on

0.00%

III

16:52

their faces to make their alpha happy with their cooperation.

"Meet my beautiful, marked, and accepted Luna, Nora!" he pointed at me, and I straightened my back, giving an awkward smile to those who were watching my face like I had personally wronged them. However, there was no mark on my neck and neither had I marked Brody.

“Welcome.” Finally, an old man broke the silence. Everyone cheered and clapped, but they kept whispering to each other whenever Brody turned his back.

“This is my royal Beta, Rollo Cyrus,” he pointed at the man from earlier, then at another man sitting right next to a she-wolf who resembled Rollo.

“He is my royal Gamma, Jerry Tim,” the man with long, curly brown hair gave me a nod, almost like a bow of respect. Brody then turned to the old man who had welcomed me first, “This is the council elder, Albert Hawk, the voter on the council.”

He pointed at the old man with long white hair and a beard. His eyes were so blue they seemed watery. He was examining me with his hand under his chin.

Every pack had voters who played an important part in delivering news, offering suggestions, and even representing their pack’s alpha to the alpha kings. But The Red Storm Pack, being the most powerful and having four alpha kings, had the head department of councilors.

“We welcome you to our pack with open arms,” the old man uttered in his raspy voice, “but you need to understand that our pack is not like the one you came from. You might think we are old-fashioned, but we still follow the rules of our ancestors. We

31.50%

|||

<

16:52

273 his she?

288 Vouchers

love peace, and we respect our alpha and the pack’s rules. I hope you will do the same.” He continued, and in response, I only nodded my head.

“And stay away from the mountains. We don’t want anyone causing any trouble for our people. We don’t mingle with the creatures on the mountains and, hence, don’t bother their existence so that we can continue living peacefully.” Rollo managed to draw attention to himself when he mentioned the mountains.

I watched the pack members quickly start praying for their safety. What were these creatures, and why hadn’t the alpha king brothers done anything about them to secure the pack?

“Anyway, let’s start feasting,” as soon as Rollo said that, everyone began to grab food like they hadn’t eaten in years.

But it wasn’t that which caught my eye. My eyes were on the she–wolf sitting between Rollo and the royal Gamma Tim. Her eyes kept getting watery, and her stare remained fixed on Brody, not breaking away for even a moment. All this time, she had not said a word and neither had she looked away from Brody. The shine in her eyes for him made me only come up with one question,

Who was she?

70.97%

Tasting 280

280–Someone Is Jealous

Nora:

“These kids have prepared this dance for you,” Brody whispered in my ear, making me giggle at the sight of the cute little angels dancing before me in groups to entertain me. Some of them were so small that whenever they tried to form a circle, they would trip but quickly get up, smile, and continue.

Thankfully, after some time, the pack members started to ease up. Some of the women even came to tell me I looked gorgeous. We now stood together, watching everyone dance and enjoy the wine. The kids had prepared a special dance for me, or so they said.

The royal Gamma and Beta stood a little way from the crowd under a large tree with Albert. They seemed to be discussing something incredibly important and intense. My eyes kept wandering back to them before I forced them back to the kids, who were so welcoming and adorable.

I sighed when my eyes landed on the girl again. She was odd. Her jet–black hair and brown eyes, accentuated by heavy eyeliner, were staring at us in a way that made me

uncomfortable. This time, she wasn’t even looking at Brody; her gaze was fixed on me. The wine glass in her hand was pressed against her chest, her wrist twisted awkwardly.

“What is it?” Brody must have noticed that I was too lost in thought. He followed my gaze and noticed the girl.

0.00%

280 Vouchers

That's when the girl acknowledged that we were both watching her. She steadily started to walk our way before Brody could introduce her to me.

"Hi, I guess he forgot to mention me," she pouted, sounding so drunk.

Brody took a deep breath before leaning back in his seat and made the introduction, "This is Clara, the royal Beta's sister. And Clara, meet my Luna and the love of my life, Nora."

His mood changed when he mentioned me. When he spoke about her, it felt forced. He seemed exhausted until he said my name, and I could hear the strength returning to his voice.

"Hmmm! Nora! The stepsister of the alpha king brothers," she had a weird, taunting smile on her lips as if trying to remind Brody of what the brothers had done.

"Yet she is nothing like them," Brody hissed, but then quickly wore a smile.

"Oh really? Well, we're just getting to know her. I hope she is what you say she is," her tone changed, and the seriousness of her face made me sit up.

Rollo noticed us and briskly made his way over, wrapping his arm around his sister with a big smile on his lips.

"This is my beloved sister," he said, and I gave him a nod, letting him know I had met her, "she is a beta and will definitely one day take over me." he was all smiles when talking about her but then he noticed the sadness on her face and his face fell as well.

35.38%

16-521

780-Someone to Jealous

288 Vouchers

"How about we take our leave now? It's late, and I have to be up early for the young pups' training," Rollo didn't let go of his sister, almost as if he was holding her back from losing her calm.

"Sure, have a good night," Brody spoke nonchalantly, not caring about Clara's stares.

She was very odd. Her deep eyes, combined with the way she had done her makeup, made her appear even more mysterious.

“Don’t mind her, she creeps everyone out,” he spoke in my ear, and I nodded until I couldn’t keep the little curiosity inside me.

“She seems to like you,” the minute I said that, Brody scoffed.

“What? Clara? That freak? No way, she just stares at everyone like she’s going to eat them alive,” he was so oblivious to her stares. I bet that’s why she had such a problem with my arrival.

But I could be wrong, so I decided to let it go.

Soon, the dinner came to an end, and I returned to the mansion where only Brody and I were staying. It was a fairly big mansion with many rooms and floors, but just the two of us living there made it seem even creepier at night.

Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates #Tasting 281 - Read Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates Tasting 281

Tasting 281

281—Such A Caring Guy

Nora:

“What is all this?” I asked Brody as he entered my room, struggling with a huge snack basket and some cold drinks slipping from his hands.

I quickly helped him and set everything down.

“There’s a mini fridge,” he pointed to the corner of the room. “I wanted to fill it up, but we arrived in such a hurry that I couldn’t prepare anything for you.” It was so thoughtful of him to care so much.

“You’ve already made my stay here comfortable, and now this?” It was honestly too much, and I felt guilty for freeloading.

“Nora! Nothing I do for you is ever enough. And please, once again, don’t think you owe me anything. I just want to do all this for you so that you forget—,” he suddenly stopped, almost mentioning my last week in the Red Storm pack.

It was terrible.

“Thank you, Brody. I guess fate brought us together at that party,” the Moon Goddess must have felt a little sorry for me to give me Brody, who could heal my wounds. Because other than him, everyone else seemed to have just forgotten about me.

“Good night, and if you need anything, give me a call, okay?” Brody didn’t even stay behind to ask for any intimate gesture. He just did a kind deed and left the room. After properly

0.00%

17.59

281 Such A Caring Guy

288 Mouchers

organizing the snacks in the basket and placing the drinks in the fridge, I sat on the bed in my pajamas and added every contact to my new phone.

After filling up the contacts, my finger hovered over my stepbrothers’ names. I wondered what they might be doing.

Maybe they were missing me and possibly regretting their behavior at the end. With that thought in mind, I decided to call Lord Atwood.

He deserved an apology from me. He might think I was just a selfish girl who used him for comfort and then ditched him when things got difficult.

I called his number, but he wouldn’t pick up.

“Maybe it’s too late,” I sighed, putting my phone aside and lying in bed. It felt so unfamiliar and not like home. A warm tear ran down my cheek as I stared at the ceiling, missing my own bed. I didn’t want this to be my forever.

I woke up feeling very dizzy and tired. Also, upset. It felt like a part of me had died. I held my phone in my hands and kept staring at it.

I wished my brothers would check on me. But since they weren’t, I decided to text Lord Atwood myself.

I called him, but just like last night, he didn’t answer. I wondered what was keeping him so occupied that he couldn’t even spare me a text or a call back.

“I should text him,” I said to myself, typing a heartfelt message. In my mind, I couldn’t call this place home, even though I knew

17459

281 Such A Caring Guy

288 Vouchers

how comfortable I had been here.

Me: Hello, good morning. I hope you have the best day. I've arrived at the pack and met some members too. They're all nice and even praised me for my manners and good behavior. I told them I learned it from my stepfather. Everyone loves you here; you truly are an inspiration.

The fact that nobody really liked me as his stepdaughter, yet i had to say all these things just to butter him up and get a response, made me feel so sad inside.

But I was determined to do well.

Me: Also, did you take your medicine? I would be very upset if you didn't. You need to take care of yourself. I'm not sure when I'll come back, but when I do visit you, I want to find you healthy and in good spirits.

A tear rolled down my cheek as I tried so hard to get a response from him. I was still living in the time when they were loving towards me. When I mattered the most to Lord Atwood.

Times have changed, and he didn't even want to respond to me, yet I kept going on and on. Tired of being ignored, I finally got out of bed and headed for the shower. I could hear people on the road and outside the mansion. Their lives had begun the minute the sun came up, but mine hadn't.

I felt so out of place.

Tasting 282

17.59

282 The Royal Beta And His Sister

1 288 Nouchers

282--The Royal Beta And His Sister

Nora:

‘That’s why a home is so important. But where is my home?’ I was so sad that I couldn’t call any place my permanent home

‘Akira! Please talk to me,’ I pleaded, worried about her sudden absences. She would emerge whenever she wanted and then disappear ever since we arrived. It was concerning, or maybe it was due to the heartbreak she had received from her mates.

I recalled the way they had treated me—it was still fresh in my memory. But look at me; I was the only one ready to forgive them, even when they weren’t begging for forgiveness. I just felt like I needed to go back home. Something about this pack’s atmosphere made me feel suffocated.

After taking a shower, I slipped into a blue top and white pants, braiding my hair on one side. Once I left the room, I felt lost.

There were maids and omegas bustling around, doing their chores, but no one really acknowledged my presence. They were purposely avoiding me.

However, the moment I reached the ground floor, I came across the royal beta, and I slowed down to have a word with him.

“Rollo, right?” I smiled, trying to interact with him politely. If I could befriend some people here, maybe it wouldn’t feel so awkward.

“Yes? What do you want?” His hostility caught me off guard, and

17:59 10

282 The Royal Beta And His Sister

11 288 Vouchers

it took me a second to gather my strength and composure again.

“Oh, I was looking for Brody. Where is he?” I looked around, and when I glanced back at him, I found him frowning.

“Alpha Brody!” His correction startled me. “He had to join Jerry for some serious matter.”

“What happened? Is everything okay?” Since Lord Atwood had let me ask questions and the brothers usually discussed these matters at the dinner table, I thought I’d be informed about things here as well. But Rollo was so hostile that he seemed annoyed whenever I opened my mouth, and I hadn’t even spoken much.

“These are confidential issues. I don’t think it would be appropriate to share them with you of all people,” he said, placing his hands on his waist, his eyebrows furrowing as he ostracized me in a single sentence.

“Excuse me? And why would that be?” I just wanted to be sure I was hearing him correctly.

“You’re associated with people we cannot trust in our pack. I hope you understand what I mean, and if you don’t, then maybe you should get out of your little world and learn about the issues of our pack

since you’re now a member of this pack.” He placed a finger on his chest, then pointed it at the ground, using a harsh tone with me.

“So, you’re implying that I’m a traitor?” I folded my arms over my chest, fed up with his rudeness.

“I didn’t say—,” before he could continue, I cut him off,

17:59

282 The Royal Beta And His Sister

288 Vouchers

“And I did try to learn about the issues of this pack. Just a minute ago, and what did you say to me in response?” I kept my eyes on his face to catch the look of utter embarrassment for contradicting himself.

“You are taking my words out of proportion,” he seemed lost now that he was being confronted for his hostility. Such a big and broad guy, yet he was lacking manners and a working ain.

“And from now on, if you misbehave with me, Mister Rollo, I’ll be very serious when I drag you before Brody—” I said his name without a title. Not because I didn’t respect him, but because we were too comfortable around each other to use formalities.

He had no choice but to look away and surrender.

“He’s not just your friend. My brother and he have been friends too. So be careful when you badmouth us,” I should have known this girl would appear again. Clara arrived, holding a bunny in her hand and gently patting its head as she deepened her eye contact with me.

“Clara!” her brother gave her a sad pout. Why were they acting like I had stolen something from them? And why was she roaming around the mansion like she owns it?

Tasting 283

283–The Bad Ones Are Back

BUON

“As you might remember from last night, I’m Clara,” she repeated her introduction, her confidence clearly elevated today. She didn’t appear teary-eyed or distressed. In fact, her posture was so poised, she looked like the queen of this place.

“Clara! Why are you here?” Her brother instantly turned to her, making sure to step between us to prevent me from getting a closer look at her.

“It’s okay, I’m fine. I can walk around,” she reassured him. “By the way, the warrior told me Brody was looking for you.”

As she unlinked her arm from her brother, he hastily began to leave. I wondered if the matter was truly so serious that he left his sister behind with me.

“I hope you had a great sleep last night,” she drew my attention back to her. I noticed how eerie it was that her eyes looked just like her rabbit’s.

“Yeah, Brody made sure I was comfortable,” I gave her a weak smile. I wasn’t the type to flaunt what I had, but recent events had made me more assertive in defending my friendships and relationships. Maybe if I had fought harder, I would have exposed Natalya and April sooner.

I wasn’t going to let Clara paint a false picture of me.

“Hmm, did you two have sex?” The moment she bluntly asked

0.00%

111

16.28)

283 0/50cher

me that question, I yelped and stepped back from her.

“No! Wow! That was quite upfront, I joked, trying to convey that I didn’t appreciate such talk.

I used to speak like that with Natalya, thinking she was a friend. Now, I hated when anyone tried to pry into my personal life.

“Why not? Aren’t you the one who’s been screwing her stepbrothers?” The little smirk that formed on her lips sent a shudder through my body.

I knew it.

I could tell from the start that she wasn’t being friendly, but rather biding her time like a vulture, waiting for the right moment to attack.

“That is disgusting—,” before I could hiss at her, a voice from the door interrupted me, shocking me.

“But that rumor was already spread around; it’s not like Clara made it up,” April stood there with her pink bag and jacket, throwing triumphant smiles my way. Her presence here left me stunned.

I thought I’d be safe here, but clearly, I was wrong. April was Brody’s cousin, and just like he was staying in her pack, she could always come here too.

But what happened to her wanting to spend time with Ryker? Why would she come here just to make me suffer when she could be with him and have him all to herself?

“April!” Clara exclaimed excitedly, in stark contrast to how she

31.86%

III

16:28

<

28 The Bad Do Are Back

18 200 Vouchers

spoke to me.

The two briskly approached each other, and Clara hugged her.

“Hey, how’s Lara?” April asked as she petted the rabbit.

“She’s getting feistier these days. Always running around,” Clara expressed her gratitude to April with constant little taps on her

arm.

“Why are you here?” I might have sounded petty, but I was being direct.

“Huh? Maybe you’re forgetting I can come here whenever I want,” she muttered, the fake smile gone from her lips.

“And she’s like a sister to Brody. You should speak to her with respect,” Clara added, clearly trying to provoke me. Now they had another person to bother me?

So when April leaves, will she leave behind this witch to continue their dirty games with me?

“Anyway, I’m here to enjoy some free time, and I brought a friend with me,” she snickered, causing my heart to flip inside my chest.

Could it be that she brought Natalya here?

“Daphne!” Hearing her call out surprised me. I hadn’t expected Daphne to show up here.

I gulped and straightened my posture, recalling the last interaction we had.

Daphne walked in with her gray bag, not even bothering to hide

64.09%

283 The Bad Ones Are Back

288 Vouchers

the disdain in her eyes as she looked at me.

“Hello, nice to meet you,” Clara cleverly extended her hand for a friendly handshake, showing me how she respected others

versus how she treated me.

Daphne didn’t seem too keen on shaking her hand until April whispered something in her ear.

Tasting 284

284–His Text And I Feel Alive

Nora:

“Hi” Daphne’s smile was wide this time.

“You again?” I sighed. Honestly, I thought I would finally get rid of these visits, but how could I forget that April would still be coming over since Brody is her cousin?

“You don’t look so happy to see me. I thought maybe you’d feel at home seeing old friends,” she said, with the audacity to call herself my friend. Daphne was never my friend. We didn’t like each other from the beginning.

“Oh, and I’m not alone,” she then added,

but the shock was far from over when Natalya also walked in.

I rolled my eyes at the sight of the two of them arriving together.

“She’s my other friend, her name is Natalya. She’s sweet and kind,” April was rambling on about qualities I didn’t agree with. None of those traits existed in Natalya.

Her gaze was slightly different when it landed on me. Almost as if she was emotional, but why, I couldn’t tell.

I don’t remember ever hurting her intentionally, so why did she make things so ugly between us? Even after she got Cain, she kept her hatred for me.

“Hello, you have a nice rabbit,” Natalya, being herself, instantly

0.00%%%

always tube and thought to hire of herst

clud my eyes

In the gut why? What happen? Clara anked data anmaking glances at me while ghing at the audacity to Salkanmul me an home of in釋

nd d Sradly decides to she

are here to be better kang tan grem

stand there and wt them engine temaah.

But he anawuhecalled harmante the turn whone

rooming ny even feed coast threet theres with my mad

Joe Prouchers

“Never mind, I’ll make my own breakfast,” I said, briskly following the maid to the kitchen

“I’ll prepare it for you, don’t worry,” a much older maid named Mrs. Fishers said, quickly trying to grab the eggs out of my hands.

“Hey, it’s okay. You work all day; I can do this myself,” I admired how hardworking they were.

“Do you want me to prepare something for the guests as well?” she inquired, mentioning the troublemakers outside.

“They’ll let you know if they need anything,” I said in a gentle tone, even though I just wanted to be bitter whenever I spoke of them.

It was because of them that I was basically homeless now. I had to travel and was forced to accept someone just because of these witches, and now they were back in my life to make it difficult.

So preparing food for them was not on my to–do list.

“Okay, I will prepare the breakfast for you then,” once again, she grabbed the spatula out of my hands, gesturing for me to leave the kitchen. “You can rest in your room till then.”

“No! I’m fine. I’ve rested enough. I want to make my own breakfast,” I insisted again.

“Alpha Brody would be mad if he found out we made you work,” the maid quickly offered, starting to prepare breakfast. I stood beside her just to make sure nobody slipped anything into my food again.

f

2844His Text And I Feel Alive

1288 Vouchers

As I was busy watching my meal being prepared, my phone beeped, and my heart leaped at the name on the screen.

It was Alpha King Cain.

Tasting 285

285–Should Not Text

Nora:

I couldn't believe my eyes at that moment. I had been worried he would never text me again. My fingers hovered excitedly over the screen, but before I could open the message, the maid informed me that my breakfast was ready.

Great. Now I will get to enjoy my food and speak to my mate. I was finally happy and excited.

"Bring it to my room," I instructed, planning to sit and eat on the terrace. Now that one of them had texted me, I felt much more at ease, maybe even a little loved.

The maid prepared the table for me, and I sat happily in the chair, enjoying the view of the mountains from my room's terrace.

"Umm! This is so good," I smiled at the delicious food; even the hash browns were cooked to perfection.

I still held my phone in my hand. Since I was starving, I wanted to take a few bites before enjoying the message from Cain.

With a toast in one hand and the phone in the other, I unlocked the screen to read his text. The big smile on my lips began to fade as I realized what the message was all about.

It wasn't what I was expecting it to be.

Cain: Natalya must have arrived at your pack. I hope you don't take your frustration out on her. She's too sensitive these days because of

285--Should Not Text

11

what she went through at Mia's funeral. So even if she's mean to you, bear with her. You should really remember before being rude to her that you owe her an apology. Take care of her, I don't want any complaints from her about you.

The smile vanished completely. I felt suffocated and angry. A tear blurred my vision, but I quickly wiped my eyes to re-read the text.

He was worried for Natalya, as if he didn't know I wasn't the kind of person who would harm someone.

Did he really believe I was so wicked that I would attack her? I dropped the toast onto my plate and began to sniffle quietly.

With sobs escaping my lips, I typed a message to him.

Me: You think I will hurt her?

It felt like I had done it on purpose. There was no way he would say otherwise. He had already answered my question in his previous text.

Cain: Haven't you done that before? Let's not argue. I have no time to waste on you. I wanted to warn you, and I did. Take care of my Natalya, because, Nora, if something happens to her this time, I will be the one punishing you.

My jaw dropped when I read that message. I instantly got up and went to the edge of the terrace to breathe some fresh air. So he changed so much after I left? he had never been so openly threatening towards me for Natalya like he was now. That's when I saw the girls in the garden,

giggling and having fun. Natalya was busy playing with Lara, while Daphne was on her phone with a smug look on her face. April and Clara seemed to be catching up and taking selfies together.

They were all so happy.

205–Should Not Text

11

It also confused me that everyone loved them. I must be doing something wrong or behaving in a way that makes others think I'm capable of hurting people or being cunning.

Me: I did not expect this from you.

That was all I could say to him, but I still kept checking my phone for a reply. However, he never responded.

He had made it clear that he didn't want to bother with me.

Growing anxious, I decided to reach out to another one of my mates for comfort. I had a feeling Ryker would be very harsh with me, so I relied on Nash.

He wasn't like that. Even when he used to get angry, he would always try to hold it in for me.

Me: Your mate just arrived here. I hope you know I'm avoiding the girls to stay out of trouble.

I hated it, absolutely hated acting so desperate and constantly begging for their attention. I just wanted things to go back to how they were. I guess I didn't appreciate those moments properly. But this time, I will. I will savor every second of it.

The way they used to care for me and were so possessive about me—it was unfair how they showed me so much love only to take it all away.

Nash's name appeared on my screen, causing my heartbeat to quicken. I was afraid he might have said something harsh too.

Nash: Good! Avoid causing trouble.

Tasting 286

286—Someone Cares Too Much

Nora:

I frowned, hastily typing another text. This was not fair. They had not right to mistreat me like this. To accuse me like I was born a criminal. What the hell was wrong with them?

Me: You think I cause trouble?

I waited, but he never got back to me. At this point, I was getting so anxious that my breathing became irregular. I was trying to calm myself but it wasn't working.

How do I make them respond to me? Should I yell at them, curse at them? That would make them lose their temper with me.

As I paced around the terrace, my vision started to blur.

I didn't even notice when the door to my room opened and someone barged in

“Hey, good morning. I'm so sorry for leaving without informing you. There was an issue related to the woods, and when I got home, I found the ladies in the garden. I quickly made my way to your room to check on you because I know they're always making things diff—” As Brody. walked in and rambled, he suddenly paused when I turned around to face him.

His eyes widened at the sight of me. I guess I was bleeding from my nose.

He rushed in the moment my body began to collapse. As he carried me

in his arms, I slowly lost consciousness.

“Rollo!” Brody yelled, laying me down on my bed. I was still slightly awake, only able to hear the commotion around me.

“Where the hell is Rollo? Ask him to come here!” Brody aggressively shouted at someone.

“Nora! Please wake up, tell me what’s wrong?” He was so lovingly running his hands through my hair that I let go of my body and passed

out.

“I want to know who thought it was a good idea for you to show up at our door with your friends?” I was in my sleep, but I could hear Brody speaking to someone,

“I thought I didn’t need any permission to come here,” I recognized her voice—it was April.

“You do need to inform me because your presence stresses out Nora.” His voice was clear, and the aggression in it was also quite evident.

“But—you would kick out your cousin for her?” I heard the shock in her voice. I wanted to get up and argue with her, but I knew I couldn’t win against her. She would go ahead and tell my stepbrothers I was the reason Brody was angry with her, and then they would come yelling at

1. me.

I don’t know since when I became so scared of their anger, but I guess it has to do with the fact that I wanted to return home. For that, I needed my stepbrothers to see me with the same affection they used to before.

“Huh? April, don’t act all innocent in front of me. I’m not someone you can fool. I know you, and I know Nora too. You and your friends.

286—Someone Cares Too Much

always harass her, and when she reacts, you girls play the victim. But those games won’t work here. You better tell your friends to pack their things and leave. I won’t allow Nora to take any stress here. Don’t forget, this is her pack now.” He wasn’t yelling, probably because he didn’t want to jolt me awake, but the way he was talking to her was enough to let her know that Brody wasn’t as easily fooled as others.

“I’m saddened by the fact that you’re kicking me out like this. At least give us a few days to stay here. I promise not to bother Nora. I’ll tell my friends too, but please, I’ve told

Daphne so much about how I'm respected here. Now if you kick me out, what will she think of me?" She must have been pouting. The pride in her voice had vanished now too.

"Fine. I'll get you three one of the best hotels in my pack. But you're not staying in this mansion. You are like troublemakers that are sticking to Nora wherever she goes. And she is too innocent to play you girls back. Too much stress isn't good for Nora, and I promised her that she wouldn't be mistreated in her new pack." The way he kept calling it my pack stunned me.

I kept my eyes shut tightly to let him deal with her himself.

Tasting 287

287—My Stepbrother Is Coming Over

Nora:

"Okay, I understand. We will leave after a few days," she responded in a much sadder tone.

"Did you not hear me? Not in a few days. You are moving out and staying in a hotel starting tonight," Brody sounded so stern. I have not heard him talk so rudely to someone before. And then I remembered. that he never actually liked Natalya because she had lied once. He told me that he hated liars and that he had no desire to give second chances to such people.

"Fine, but at least let us stay over for the night," she requested, and he let out a grunt in response.

"Please don't be so harsh on us, I am your cousin. It is not like I will eat your innocent Nora alive," I could hear the bitterness in her tone. Even when trying her best to not sound like she had any grudge against me, she couldn't help but be rude towards me.

At this point, I really wanted to wake up so that she could make eye contact with me and realize that I had heard what Brody told her. The weak side of me wanted to flaunt my friend and his support right in her

face.

As I opened my eyes, I watched April fold her arms and look away, but Brody's face brightened with a smile.

“You need to stop scaring me like that,” he joked, but the way he held my hand so gently made me smile for him.

207–My Stepbrother Is Coming Over

“I’m fine now. Maybe lack of sleep made me pass out,” I said, not lying. I had been pretty restless for the last few weeks.

“I’m glad you’re okay. And why

en’t you sleeping well? Do you need me to sing you a lullaby?” he teased, and I laughed with him. That’s how comforting his company was.

“I’m sorry if our arrival stressed you out. It’s just that we haven’t said anything to you, and we didn’t argue with you. Then why did you pass. out from stress?” The moment April started talking, Brody’s jaw clenched.

He steadily turned his head toward her and shot her a deadly glare that made her straighten her posture before she smiled at me.

“Whatever it is, I’m sorry. I don’t mean to bother you,” she quickly changed her tone. If only my stepbrothers had done that too, these girls wouldn’t have dared to play games with me.

“It’s fine. You girls are going to be staying at the hotel anyway, so I think everything will be okay.” His words made her smile vanish. entirely.

I could tell they didn’t want to leave. Of course not, especially when they planned to torment me.

“Yeah, we’re leaving. But I was expecting to leave in the morning. It’s pretty late now, and we’re afraid of this pack for some reasons,” she muttered under her breath, mentioning the ominous mountains.

“The creatures don’t just wander around on our roads,” Brody seemed pretty adamant about kicking them out.

“So it’s decided, we’ll leave in the morning. But for now, how about we all dine together?” she clapped her hands excitedly. making me

||| 287–My Stepbrother Coming Over

look down to avoid her gaze.

After a few moments of silence, Brody spoke up again, "Sure. You girls can have dinner here, but I'm taking Nora out. We'll come home pretty late and head straight to our rooms. So go ahead, have the mansion to yourselves for the night."

I smiled when he didn't even need me to tell him I didn't want to dine with them. He just understood me so well.

"Oh, wait! Ummm, so you really want us to leave in the morning? Will Silas also stay at the hotel when he arrives?" The mention of his name on her lips suddenly made my heart race. My body tensed up, but not from sadness. I was happy to hear his name.

"What? Silas is coming here?" I could tell it was a big shock for Brody. because he didn't like the brothers visiting his pack.

"Oh, did I not tell you? He has to come here and quickly wrap up some work before he goes away," she finished, and I didn't understand her at all. But the fact that he was coming here was enough for me to realize that at least one of them wanted to check on me.

Tasting 288

288–The Sad Friendly Date

Nora:

After she told us he was coming, she left the room. Brody asked me to get ready for dinner, and I did. I felt so happy and energetic all of a sudden

It was like being in a place full of strangers, and then your family, lover, or friend shows up out of nowhere. I know Brody wasn't a stranger, but his people didn't like me, so I had felt very lonely the entire day. I tried to communicate with the omega maids, but they didn't bother with me either.

It was heartbreaking to be ignored as if I didn't even exist.

I walked out of my room in a black dress, with my hair curled and makeup done. The news had really helped me feel better.

"Wow! You look amazing. The creatures from the mountains better not find out such a beauty exists in my pack," Brody extended his hand. toward me, and I accepted it, laughing at his compliments.

"I know, I know, we're just friends and all, but I can still compliment you. Or I can say that I have a crush on my friend," he shrugged, reminding me that even though we were just friends, it didn't change the fact that he liked me too.

“Thank you for being the best friend ever,” I cheered, walking downstairs with him.

The girls were sitting at the dining table, watching us interact. Brody

248 The Sad Friendly Date

quickly moved to the side where they were and blocked their view.

I appreciated how considerate he was.

Once we sat down in his car and hit the road, Brody started adjusting the rearview mirror.

“You seem happy tonight,” he remarked, and I nodded.

“I don’t know why, but I really am happy,” I turned to him, watching him smile.

“You have no idea how worried I was for you. I couldn’t stop thinking of ways to cheer you up,” his voice carried a hint of sadness.

“Is it because your stepbrother is coming over?” Then he hit me with that question. My smile vanished quickly, so he added, “I don’t mean to upset you with my question, but that’s what I thought, and it really bothered me.

Now I watched him focus on the road, no longer smiling.

“It’s just that they’re not your blood relatives, Nora. They treated you so badly. Why not just stop worrying about them?” I knew he wasn’t wrong. They had treated me poorly in the end, but I felt like the main culprits were the girls who were just lounging around and not being held accountable.

“I understand. You’re right,” now that he reminded me, I felt the same sadness from before.

“Look, Silas is coming over in the morning, and I’ve been asked to leave the pack for a very important meeting outside. I’m so restless thinking he’ll be in my pack while I’m gone,” I could see the stress on

his face.

238–The Bad Friendly Date

But I had nothing to say to him, so I just nodded and looked out the window. The happiness I once felt had disappeared. He wasn’t wrong, though.

How could I forget how they kicked me out of their pack and their lives?

“I hope you’re not taking my words the wrong way. Also, may I ask you something?” I had a feeling he would ask me about the brothers again.

With a heavy heart, I nodded.

“Did you ask him to come over?” His question left me puzzled. Why would he think I did that?

Sure, I texted them, but not to come here. My plan was for them to ask me to come back.

“No! I didn’t,” I quickly responded, shaking my head.

“Not even the others?” he inquired, and I shook my head until I recalled the conversation I had with them.

“I did message them, but I wasn’t asking them to come here,” I tried reassuring him that I didn’t invite them, knowing how much Brody dislikes having them around.

“But I guess you texting them kind of made them decide to come,” he nodded, and once again, I had nothing left to say.

“Oh goddess, I’m a horrible person. I wiped the smile off your face. I’m so sorry. Let’s not talk about them again and just focus on the night,” he gave me a smile, and I returned it, but deep down, I was sad again.

Tasting 289

289–Trouble In Paradise

Nora:

This back and forth of where I belonged and who I should or shouldn’t speak to was starting to suffocate me. It felt like I was back in my childhood, constantly monitored and having no life of my own.

We had a great dinner, and I smiled throughout it. I had learned to fake a smile now, at least for a few hours. I didn’t want Brody to think I was only happy because I heard Silas was coming over.

We returned home, and as expected, April had decided to stay awake. She wouldn’t let me sleep peacefully without seeing her face.

“You’re up?” Brody asked her as we passed the TV room.

“Yeah, I couldn’t sleep. How was the dinner?” she inquired, and I kept walking toward the staircase.

I didn’t plan to stick around for their conversation.

“It was great. By the way, it’s okay. You and your friends can stay here. while I’m gone,” the moment he said that, I slowed down on the steps.

“Oh, is it because you don’t want Silas to be alone with Nora while you’re not in the pack?” The hurt in her voice didn’t distract me from the meaning behind her words.

“Take it as you will. But stay in the mansion for a few days.” So, he wasn’t comfortable leaving me alone with Silas?

But why?

289–Trouble in Paradise

And why did he think the girls staying back would benefit him?

If anything, they would just create more chaos.

I didn’t argue with Brody and went to bed as soon as I changed into my pajamas. I woke up early for some reason, and after showering and changing into the prettiest white top and black pants, I sat down to do my makeup.

“You know, I think it would be good to look my best when Silas arrives,” I nodded to myself, trying to figure out how to act in front of him.

‘Or do you think looking sick would do the trick? I mean, I don’t intend to play any games, but if he sees how sad and sick I am, he might ask me to come back home. Ugh! Please help me, Akira,’ I pouted sadly as I took off my ring and placed it on the dressing table.

But the saddest part was that she wasn’t responding to me anymore.

‘Akira! Are you leaving me too?’ I slumped back in my chair, staring at my reflection in the mirror. The girl in the mirror looked so out of place.

Why couldn’t she find a home? Why did she have to be so weak?

I wasn’t weak. I wasn’t born weak, and I didn’t grow up weak. Abused and tortured, sure, but that made me stronger.

If anyone could survive what I did in the past, it would mean I am the strongest. Then why couldn’t I be strong and stop thinking about my

mates?

'I get it. It's because of the mate bond. You know, if we had rejected each other, I wouldn't be feeling so much pain right now,' I nodded in

299—Trouble in Paradise

understanding, pouting and waiting for Akira like every day.

But she had gone silent on me. This wasn't good. After everything I had been through, now she was also missing.

I grabbed my ring and put it back on, knowing that no matter what I said, she wouldn't respond to me.

I decided to look my best. Maybe I could act like everything was normal, and when Silas left, I could leave with him.

I just needed to make it seem effortless and like a normal thing—me going back and forth between my homes.

That was the plan.

As I left the room and walked downstairs, I saw the girls in the living room. Daphne was wrapped in a big blanket and looked very sick for some reason, while Natalya and April were watching TV and eating breakfast on the couch.

"Please, just tell me where he is these days, okay?" I frowned when I noticed Daphne speaking to someone on the phone while in tears.

The others were acting like she wasn't crying right next to them.

"I didn't do anything. He told me to stay away from him and that he needs space. He is going for some training—," the minute her eyes landed on me, she went silent and cut the call.

What was she talking about? Did something happen between her and Nash?

290—They Want Me Back Now

Tasting 290

290—They Want Me Back Now

Nora:

I avoided talking to the girls, but Daphne seemed pretty ruined.

"Mrs. Fisher!" I called for the elderly head maid. She rushed out of the kitchen, drying her hands on her apron, and bowed to me.

"There's no need for that. You are my elder, I don't want you bowing to me," I patted her back with a smile. I preferred getting hugs.

"That is very kind of you, but Alpha Brody has instructed us to be very respectful towards you. Now tell me, what would you like me to cook for you?" she asked, all smiles, even though I could tell she wasn't very fond of me like the others. But at least she always tried to lighten the atmosphere with her humor.

The others, since they couldn't be rude to me, just avoided me altogether.

"Umm! Whatever you cook best. I tried your food yesterday, and it was amazing." I replied. After my downfall, I've learned to be grateful for the kindness people show me.

I promised the Moon Goddess that I would never complain about small things. I would always smile and thank her for her blessings. And I would cherish every moment of the good life I have. But there was just one request from the Moon Goddess: to give me back the affection and love of Lord Atwood and his sons.

I would do anything, anything, if they loved me like before. I will not

up

this time.

mess it

250 They Want Me Back Now

Just when I thought I could return to my room while my breakfast is being prepared, one of the girls called for me.

"Nora!" Natalya called out to me, making me take a deep breath and turn towards her. But the moment she opened her mouth, I saw April pinch her arm to silence her.

"So how is living here? Do you still-

"Brody will kick us out," April whispered as she shut her down, but I was able to catch her words clearly.

"Come, have a seat with us," April patted the spot beside her, but I shook my head in refusal.

"I'll sit outside in the fresh air," I murmured. They must think I'm an idiot to ever sit with them again.

"Sure, you can do that too. By the way, are you happy that your stepbrother is coming over just for you?" The way she brought it up again made me raise an eyebrow. I watched Natalia shake her head in disappointment.

She wasn't pleased that any of the brothers were showing concern for

1. me.

"Just for me?" The petty side of me wanted her to repeat herself.

"As if you don't know?" she raised her brow, looking slightly

bewildered.

"Anyway, he's been asking about you. And it slipped out that you passed out yesterday. He made the plan at the last moment, even though he has so much to do in his pack. I think you should contact him and tell him not to bother. Why make him come all the way here

250 They Want Me Back Now

when you're fine?" She was so cunning.

She wanted me to tell Silas not to come here for me?

I've been praying to the Moon Goddess for this moment, and she wanted me to turn away from it?

"I can't stop him if he wants to come," I shrugged. Obviously, I was pretty excited deep down. But I had to act cool and not let them try hard to mess it up for me. Daphne rolled her eyes as if we talking so loudly was bothering her. She had not intervened a lot as well. As for Natalia, she didn't have a mind of her own, she pretty much only waited for April's signals to do some mischievousness.

"Of course, but can you tell him you can't go back with him? Don't you remember how much you stressed out Lord Atwood? Now they're being emotional and want you back. But you know they'll regret it once you mess up again," she pouted shamelessly, even lying while looking me in the eye.

She knew I never messed up. It was those three who made everyone turn their backs on me..

But I was too happy to argue with her.

My prayers had finally been answered. The brothers must have felt guilty for being harsh on me through texts after hearing that I had passed out.

I was finally going back home.

Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates #Tasting 291 - Read Tasting Nora-Pleasing Her Stepbrother Mates Tasting 291

Tasting 291

291–April Fool

Nora:

“Did y you hear that, Akira? Now stop being upset and come out. Our stepbrother is coming to take us back home,” I cheered happily, taking big bites from the waffles I carried in my hand without any syrup. I looked around at the things I needed to pack.

“I shouldn’t have unpacked all this stuff.” I rolled my eyes at myself for not trusting my stepbrother before. They were obviously emotional when they made me leave. Now they have returned to their senses.

“But it will be fine, you know? I will keep coming here to visit Brody. He’s so nice, but I think he deserves someone who doesn’t carry the baggage of so many mate bonds on her shoulders. He doesn’t need to babysit someone who is in love with someone else,” I truly believed Brody was the best.

But my mate bonds would never let me fall for him. And even if I did, whenever I faced my mates again, my heart would ache to be with them. That would be unfair to Brody.

Besides, keeping me as a friend when his pack members think we are chosen mates wouldn’t be good for his reputation either.

I grabbed my bag and shoved my clothes back inside, hastily trying to gather all my belongings.

Once I go back with Silas, I’ll tell all of them how much I have cried because of them. I know they will somehow make amends and make me happy again because that’s what they are good at.

201–April Fool

Once all the packing was done, I stood on the terrace, keeping my eyes on the main gate. Hours passed, and my anxiety began to grow.

Once again, I started to question his arrival. What if he changed his mind?

“Oh no, what if Brody called him and told him not to come?” I gasped in shock, tearing up. How would I ever find out why Silas didn’t come? Well, I have to call him.

He cares so much, of course, he’ll answer my call. But why didn’t he reach out to me himself? Maybe the guilt didn’t let him.

Just when I was about to call him, I saw the big gate open, and it was like the sight instantly brought a smile to my lips. It was Silas’ car.

He had really come to take me back home. With tears of happiness and a big, bright smile, I rushed out of my room to go see him.

I didn’t even care that the others were still in the TV lounge, watching me run out of the mansion like a madwoman.

Once I was in the driveway, I slowed down and sniffled. He was supposed to drive all the way to the end, but seeing me made him stop. his car and get out.

There he was—Silas!

He looked so handsome in that blue hoodie and black pants. His eyes. shone from behind his glasses.

He was just as I remembered him. It hadn’t even been many days, yet it felt like I was seeing him again after many years.

“Silas,” I uttered his name, and he gave me a nod in greeting.

201—April Fool

“How are you?” he inquired, pretending not to notice my face as he busied himself gesturing to the guard to take his bag out of the car’s trunk. Seeing him again felt so good.

“I’m much better now,” I said, and he turned to face me.

“I don’t need an apology, okay? I’m fine. But I am upset that you and the others didn’t even reach out to me,” interacting with him again like that felt so fulfilling. Last time, we had a bad argument; in fact, when we were intimate, I also got upset with him without trying to understand his point.

But now I understand. I really did. Whatever he said had to be true.

“I’ve packed my bags, so tell me when we can head back home?” I didn’t want him to stay here for a long time because his presence could upset Brody.

He had come here for me, so why not just leave already? Of course, I would wait for Brody to come back home first.

“Huh?” he raised his eyebrow and in that moment, I began to feel odd.

Tasting 292

292—Two Can Play This Game

Nora:

I thought maybe he was so shocked because he assumed I would not forgive them so easily.

“Don’t be so shocked. I’m not that stubborn. I know you were expecting me to throw a tantrum or something like that, but I’m fine. I’ll argue and fight with you once we’re back home though.” I shrugged, pouting. My heart was pounding so loudly even when I was pretending to be normal.

Wow!

Standing before him felt so unreal. I couldn’t believe I was able to communicate with him again without him yelling at me or being harsh.

“I don’t get it,” he shook his head, acting all confused.

“Silas, I know why you came here. You heard about me passing out, so you arrived to check on me and take me back home. I’m only agreeing because I care a lot about Lord Atwood. Otherwise, I would have said no—” I rambled until I noticed him furrowing his eyebrows.

“You came here for me, right?” Now that I realized he hadn’t once said anything about me or why he was here, I began to feel a bit uneasy.

“Who told you that?” The tone of nonchalance spoke volumes. “Remember there were those fog people in the pack a few months ago? I was supposed to investigate that case. I’m here for that,” he quickly explained, causing my heart to sink into my chest. “And what do you mean by ‘you are coming back with me’? Nora! My dad and my

212—Two Can Play This Game

brothers—I don’t think they’ll appreciate it. At least, stay here for a

while. I think it's too soon for you to be coming back to our home," he finished, but the emphasis on 'our home' didn't escape my attention.

"You didn't come here for me?" As tears welled up in my eyes, I felt my heart shatter at the realization that April had fooled me once again.

"Nora—," I heard him call for me but I guess I was done here. I have made myself look like an idiot once again.

I didn't stick around and rushed back inside, briskly making my way upstairs when April blocked my path.

"What happened? Why are you in tears?" she pouted, almost like she was mocking me.

"You are so full of hatred," I grunted, hissing at her while she smirked.

"I don't know what you are talking about," she pitted, faking a very sad look on her face. What was wrong with her? Why wouldn't she stop?

"Get out of my way," I closed my eyes, putting pressure on my words as I warned her not to test me right now.

"Oh really? You're going to show me attitude now?" She raised her brow, challenging me to straighten up and face her.

I could hear Silas talking to the guards as he entered.

"April, the only reason you and the other bitches are still around is because I don't play dirty. You better pray I never stoop so low, because if I ever did—" I warned her, and she rolled her eyes.

Obviously, she believed I was just making empty threats. Since I hadn't been able to do anything to her so far, she thought I wouldn't be able to

292—Two Can Play This Game

do anything now.

"Or else? There's nothing you can do," she placed her hand on my shoulder and chuckled. My eyes drifted to her touch, and then I grasped her wrist.

"You're just a wolfless—" she began, but her eyes widened as I applied force to her wrist.

I didn't even need my wolf to be fully awake. If I wanted to, I could still make her feel pain.

“Ouch!” she grimaced, and I released her when Silas entered.

“You fucking bitch,” she yelled at me, that is exactly what i wanted her to do.

“What happened? I was just asking where you got this bracelet from. I liked it and thought of buying one for myself. But if you didn’t like me looking at your bracelet—I’ll never look at it again,” I feigned

innocence, stepping back with tears filling my eyes.

The look of shock on her face gave me so much satisfaction. The fact. that the only reason they were able to fool me was because defense was my weakest point. I can attack as well.

“What’s going on here? Why are you yelling at Nora?” Silas frowned.

Tasting 293

293—Our Fourth Mate

Nora:

“I wasn’t yelling at her for no reason. I was just minding my own business when Nora suddenly attacked me. She even hurt me,” April feigned tears, rubbing her elbow to emphasize how uncomfortable she felt being questioned.

“Nora, you tell me what happened,” Silas asked me. As much as I wanted to leave and ignore him, I was determined to win this little. battle and show her that I could play this game too if I wanted.

“I was just admiring her bracelet. But I don’t know why she got so angry,” I hugged myself and looked down while April grimaced.

“That’s such a big lie. Why would I get angry over just a bracelet?” she hissed at me, and I lowered my head even more, pretending to be terrified of her.

“Yeah, you—you’re right. I’m—not telling the truth,” I sniffled, closing my eyes and squeezing my body together.

“Stop acting like I did something to you,” April’s frustration was so satisfying. This is how desperate I act when trying to prove my innocence while they keep playing games with me.

Natalya emerged from the living room, having watched the interaction. between April and me.

“Nora was threatening her,” Natalya quickly jumped in as a witness.

“Don’t get involved,” Silas warned her first before turning to April and

203 Our Fourth Mate

1. me.

“I heard it myself. She was only asking for your bracelet,” Silas said, his gaze fixed on April with a look that told me my deception had worked.

“Besides, it’s just a bracelet. You don’t have to warn her not to look at it as if her mere glance would ruin it. And don’t ever yell at her again just because you think she is far away from us and we cannot come here for her defense,” he shook his head in disapproval before heading off to freshen up in the guest room.

But why did he act like he knew April would test my patience and try to attack me again when in his own

to attack me again when in his own pack he acted like he believed all the accusations against me?

“See that?” I folded my arms across my chest, not faking being too scared anymore, watching April lost in her thoughts.

“If I wanted to, I could play so dirty that all of you would end up in jail. But I don’t play games. Not because I can’t, but because I refuse to deceive my stepbrothers—they don’t deserve that,” my own words. caused me immense pain. I have been nothing but considerate toward my stepbrothers.

I understand that now they think poorly of me because of the file and everything, but it wasn’t always like this.

I sighed and ran upstairs. Now that I was sitting on my bed, I stared at the packed bags. It broke my heart how they had kicked me out.

With a sigh escaping my lips, I closed my eyes to rest. I eventually dozed off—I guess the heartbreak was wearing me down.

When I went downstairs, I found out from the guards that Silas had

293—Our Fourth Mati

eaten dinner alone in his room, and the girls were out partying.

Daphne left alone to explore the pack while April and Natalya were together.

Without eating anything, I started walking upstairs when my knees began to hurt. This had never happened before.

The pain wasn't just any ordinary ache. I was gasping and sat down on the staircase.

"What is happening?" My body felt heavy, almost as if something inside me was suffering.

There was only one possibility.

"Akira!"

I called out her name and quickly twisted the ring on my finger. The agony was so intense that I couldn't think of going upstairs—I just couldn't.

So I decided to confront her while I still could, or else she might go silent again.

"Akira! What is going on with you?" I pleaded, worried for her.

"It's—" hearing her voice again was like a melody to my ears. But what she said next stunned me.

"I need to find him—" she uttered.

"Who?" I couldn't comprehend who she meant.

"Our mate—it's a full moon tonight. You need to go to his bedroom and take off the ring for a few seconds. We need to feel the mate bond—"

250—Dur Fourth Mate

My heart started pounding hard as I processed her words.

"Whose bedroom?" I hoped it was a nightmare, but it turned out to be true when she softly replied,

"Our mate—Silas!"

Tasting 294

294—Mate! Oh My Mate!

Nora:

“Akira! No! That can’t be. Our three mates have already hurt us enough and the fourth is also their brother?” I refused to listen to her. Another mate! And my stepbrother at that. They don’t care about me anymore.

“Maybe once he feels the mate bond with us, he will grow affectionate towards us,” she urged.

“You don’t understand—” The way she had to pause made me realize she was barely holding it together. The pain she was feeling was surfacing, and if she didn’t express it, she might slip into a coma inside. me. This had never happened before. But maybe it was because I had found my mates so soon.

“Silas is also our mate,” I was in shock. I should have known that would happen. Why would only one brother not be our mate? But the fact that we hadn’t discovered him for so long must have been agonizing for Akira.

“I will do this for you,” I closed my eyes, and a tear escaped. I knew the moment I knocked on his door, he would yell at me. This is how exhausted I felt.

With my arms wrapped around my stomach, I walked to his room and knocked on the door. I didn’t even bother adjusting the ring on my finger at this point.

The door swung open as if he had been waiting on the other side. But why would he?

294–Mate! Oh My Mate!

His eyes met mine, and a strange spark ran through my body. There were tears in his eyes too, filled with nothing but love. That’s how I knew it wasn’t a dream. They had stopped looking at me with such adoration.

Then my wolf howled inside me, crying out, “Mate!” It was the loudest and most desperate urge to call for her mate ever. My heart began to pound in sync with Silas’s, our rhythms connecting and becoming one.

The silence grew thick, and then he stepped forward once our hearts. separated, and everything returned to normal.

I was over, I

“I’m sorry. I wouldn’t have bothered you—” Now that it knew I had to fix my mistake. But before I could finish, he cupped my face in his hands and crashed his lips against mine.

Oh, the softness mesmerized me. I felt like all the pain had drifted. away.

“Silas!” Breaking the kiss, I said his name through gasps.

“If you hadn’t found me, I would have found you,” he uttered, throwing his glasses away and pulling me into the room with him.

Now I stood with my back pressed hard against the wall.

“I don’t care what happened, I just feel like somewhere deep down in me I knew—I knew you were the one for me,” he said, pacing in front of me, not anxiously but happily.

“You’re not angry at me?” I asked, my lips quivering.

He stopped pacing and turned to face me. “Why would I be angry at you?”

294 Matel Ch My Matel

“Because I’m a bad person and I cause trouble?” As soon as I said that, he tilted his head and looked at me as if I were being silly.

“Tell me, you’re angry with me,” I couldn’t believe I was in such a desperate state.

“I can never be angry with you, Nora!” With that, he took my hand and kissed the back of it, but I quickly pulled my hand away and shook my head.

“No! This isn’t true. This has to be a dream,” I was losing my mind now. How could he become so soft with me so quickly?

“I know you’re upset with us, but trust me—it was in your best interest that you came here,” he began scratching his neck, almost as if he was anxious.

“How? I was kicked out of my pack,” I grimaced, tears welling up in my eyes.

“For—now only—but Nora—” I couldn’t even understand what he was saying.

“I had to come here—for you—you were right. I didn’t come here for any case—I had seen you in dreams—calling for me—” He placed his hands on the wall, encircling me with his arms.

“What?” I wasn’t sure what I was hearing at this point.

“I saw you in my dreams. You were calling for me, so I came here— despite not being allowed—now —for now,” he lowered his head and shook it.

“Fuck!” I watched him kneel down and cover his head with his hands.

204–Mate! Oh My Mate!

What was happening to him?

Tasting 295

295–Mating And Knotting

Nora:

“Silas! Are you okay?” I grew worried for him. The minute he arrived at the mansion, he had rushed into the room and only emerged for a moment to grab the food tray. However, now I could see the food tray behind him, and it didn’t even seem like he had touched anything in it. Could it be true that he came here for me?

“Silas!” As I knelt beside him, I watched him raise his eyes to meet mine. His pupils were dilated, and his jaw was clenched.

The moment our eyes connected, I began to feel a strange sensation. that made me want to look away from him. But I couldn’t.

“She wants us to mate-” he uttered, his eyes turning red from extreme emotions.

“Who? Who wants us to mate?” I mumbled under my breath, seeking answers. I had been very hurt in the last few weeks, so him coming over and saying all these sweet things and making claims was really not the way I would let him deceive me.

“The Moon Goddess. Tonight is the red moon–the moon of mating-” he closed his eyes to avoid meeting my gaze. But it made sense now. This is why my wolf was in so much agony as well. I was able to calm her down by adjusting the ring on my finger. However, the urge was still within me. It was getting harder and harder for me to act like I didn’t want to mate with him.

And then, in a moment of weakness and hope, I cupped his face in my

S–Mating And Knotting

hands and gently brushed our lips together. It was in that moment that he began to ease up.

“Nora!” He said my name with so much love and affection.

“Silas! I want to go back home,” I pouted through tears, pleading with him before making any decisions.

“I will tak

you home. You think we left you here because this is your new home? I promise you will not stay here-" He smiled as he made the promise, and that was all I needed. In that moment, I felt like my prayers had been answered. I was determined to go back and fix everything, and this time, I would not repeat my mistakes.

"But what about the three-" I hadn't even finished when he interrupted.

"Those witches will not be allowed around you," he reassured. So he knew they were playing games with me?

However, there was no time to discuss it further. I was going in heat and so was he. As our lips met this time, I felt him push me against the wall and carry me with him.

He turned off the light beside me and began kissing my lips as if he had been starving for years. The taste of his tongue in my mouth made me moan and grind against him. My legs were tightly wrapped around his waist, feeling him harden against me through our clothes. With each kiss, I wanted to savor him.

Ah!" a moan escaped my lips into his mouth, making his dick flinch inside his pants.

He was getting harder as our tongues battled in each other's mouths for pleasure. However, as I ran my hands over his back, up his hoodie, It

205 Mating And Knotting

felt some scratch marks on his skin.

But the heat was too much for us to break the kiss and talk about anything else.

He began to run his hand down and took off my panties while we kissed passionately.

Once he had left me uncovered, he took off his pants and quickly made me jump and be carried by him again.

I wrapped my legs around his waist and felt the touch of our intimate parts together.

I really couldn't believe we were doing this.

The head of his cock came in contact with my pussy and I clenched my legs even tighter around him.

I closed my eyes and waited, but he decided to be very gentle with me.

"I'm not a virgin!" before he gets the surprise, I said it out loud in heavy breaths.

“You are for me. It’s our first time,” he replied, kissing my neck passionately.

“You wouldn’t ask me who I did it with before you?” I mumbled.

“I don’t care. Whoever you did it with can go to hell. You are mine now,” he lowered me gently on his cock and it went in only a little as Silas stopped right when I grimaced in little pain.

His cock was wide and big, also so veiny that I could feel it inside me.

And then with a very gentle push, he made it a little farther inside

295 Mating And Knotting

before giving a final push and entering me completely.

“Umm ...!” biting my bottom lip, I tried to silence my moans or else I would be announcing it to the whole mansion that we were having sex.

“I’m so glad I came here to see you. I would have never been able to wait for that long,” he whispered as his thrusts sped up.

His cock set my insides on fire. All the while he kissed all over my chest. With his thrusts, my dress came down from the top and he was able to suck on my nipple.

I wish it wasn’t so dark in the room, but we had to make it seem like he was sleeping so that nobody bothered us.

“Ah!” I moaned as loud as I could as I couldn’t take it anymore the minute I felt his cock swell inside me.

“Ow! Your pussy won’t let me go,” I heard him whisper in my ear the minute his movements inside me seized.

He now hugged me tightly, his face in my neck and his lips near my ear.

It made me lose my mind even more because now I could hear his heavy breaths directly into my ear.

After a few minutes of staying knotted inside me, he finally let out the loudest groan before shooting his hot liquid inside my vagina and

filling it up like there was no tomorrow.

“Ughhh!” as my pussy got filled with his cum, I screamed, but he quickly covered my mouth with a kiss.

Tasting 296

296–Gone Away!

Nora:

“Mmmm! I’m so glad you’re my mate. I always felt there was something special about you. The way my wolf reacted to you was always so intriguing to me. But you were always running away from me on full moons. But I finally caught you,” he giggled in my ear as he continued kissing my neck and earlobe.

After our wild and passionate lovemaking, we lay in his bed, under the covers, still fully clothed but very touchy.

However, he suddenly stopped and lifted his head to look me in the eye.

I bet he noticed that after the sex, my energy was really drained.

“Is it the things we said to you?” he asked, and I gently nodded.

Actually, I was also very tired, so I was beginning to doze off

“My precious mate! We had no choice. You won’t understand this now,” he whispered in my ear and then snuggled closer to me.

It was quite shocking that throughout the time we cuddled, he kept kissing me everywhere. I could feel his lips brush over my face before I finally started to fall asleep.

That’s when he said one last thing, “Nora! For the next few months, I want you to not listen to us, not look for us, not think about us. After some time, we’ll come back ourselves, and then we can

take you back

home.”

296–Gone Away

I was too sleepy to ask him what he meant.

“Now let’s get you back to your room. I don’t want to cause trouble for you with those girls,” he whispered before he scooped me into his

arms.

The affection Silas showed me last night was so profound that I immediately forgot all the pain. I had woken up by him when he carried me back to my bedroom because he didn’t want the three bitches to catch me coming out of his room in the morning.

I kissed him goodnight, and he smiled while I was still half asleep. When I returned to my room, I crawled into bed and slept through the rest of the night happily.

“You must hate me, my child!” I heard someone say, and my eyes started moving. I struggled to open them so I could look around and find the woman speaking to me. She got onto my bed and sat beside me, her hand in my hair.

“You are a strong one, a very special one. You have fought all your life and survived. Except for these days, you are in pain and are misunderstood. Nobody hates you; it’s just that the times are risky. You need to be patient and go with the flow. Don’t fight to keep anyone or push them away. Keep patience, and everything will return to you in its perfect time. Let things be for now,” she whispered.

directly in my ear.

“You have a destiny to fulfill. You are the one who can save the werewolf land and give strength to your mates. Just keep patience— don’t push too hard. They are scarred and flawed. Let them return to you when they are perfect, and you will be the one to make them perfect,” she continued whispering in my ear, causing my skin to break out in goosebumps.

I could sense my surroundings but couldn’t wake up. I must be experiencing sleep paralysis.

“For now, goodbye! And forgive me for the sufferings, but you have a very peaceful life ahead if you follow my instructions.” As she

finished, my eyes finally shot open.

However, I didn’t find her. My room was dark, and there was no woman in it. I got out of bed and looked around, even behind the curtain. The clock showed 8:54.

If it was morning, why was it still so dark outside? With my shaky hands, I held my phone and checked the date and time. It was the next day, but the entire day had passed.

“I slept through the whole day?” In shock, I stormed out of the room to go downstairs and speak to Silas. Since he was a doctor, I knew only he could help me with this query. I didn’t even realize the mansion had more people in it.

“You’re awake! Brody has been blowing up everyone’s phones to ask about you,” Natalya said as she watched me rush towards the guestroom.

I ignored her and kept going when she added, “Silas left.”

My steps halted, my body turning to question her. “What do you mean he left?” I did not believe her, so I touched the door and opened it, finding it empty.

No! There’s no way he left without me.

“Nora! Something came up, so he left early this morning,” she shrugged.

296—Gone Away!

“Why do you look so pale? He came to leave anyway,” she added.

“You know what?” I finally walked up to her, facing her with my eyes bloodshot red. My mind was unable to process what had just happened. Silas left without me? Even after he had promised he would take me home with him?

“I didn’t do anything. I swear. We woke up to the news ourselves. He didn’t even wait for anyone to wake up,” she quickly leaned back on the couch, trying to create distance between us.

“I have never met someone so cunning and heartless like you. I gave you a place in my heart, and you fucking ruined everything for me,” I screamed at the top of my lungs, shocking her.

“Okay!” she hesitated, looking around for her masters to come and save her.

“I was supposed to go back home with him today. To my home! And guess what? He left without me. You know why? Because you three whores have destroyed my reputation—you fucking stole my home from me.” As I hunched over her and pointed my finger in her face, I heard someone rush in and hold me from behind.

“You want to go home?” Brody pulled me away from her before I could attack and made me face him.

Great! I brought this upon myself.

Tasting 297

297—Going Home!

Nora:

“Tell me,” Brody had made me walk back to my room where he confronted me about my statement. I was sitting on my bed, staring at the wall ahead and in tears. He paced back and forth anxiously, waiting for me to answer.

“I want to go home,” I finally repeated. I just couldn’t stay here. The air of this pack made me feel strange—almost as if someone was draining my blood and leaving me weak.

“Even after they kicked you out?” he inquired as he stopped his pacing.

“I know I sound desperate, but the truth is, and you know it too, that I have wanted to stay in my pack and in my home all this time,” I didn’t even want to lie to him or tell him any tales. The truth was that no matter what, I couldn’t feel that way towards him when I hadn’t even been rejected by my fated mates. And now the mate bond had grown stronger. The four brothers were my fated mates, and none of them had accepted or rejected me. I was breaking down miserably, piece by piece.

“What about us? I thought we would someday—maybe—” This was what I was afraid of. I wasn’t given a choice. I had to fall in love with him; that was the only way out for me. And he knew it too. I had told him I wasn’t in love with him, and he brought me here with that understanding, but now he was saying he was hoping for more all this

time.

“Brody! You deserve someone better. I can stay here, but that only

297—Going Home!

means I have to fake it for you, or else—I will have to wait for the day I do,” I wasn’t sure I was making sense to him. But I wanted to go back home. This place was not for me. I had nightmares here.

“Okay! Listen to me. They’ve told me—Lord Atwood specifically asked me not to bring you back,” he sat down and held my hands, causing my heart to flip inside my chest.

“No! He would never say that,” the delusional part of me refused to believe him.

“Nora! Why would I lie to you? Did you call him? Call Lord Atwood and ask him yourself,” he insisted, but I hesitated to look away.

“You’ve already called him? What did he say?” he inquired, and I gulped.

“He never picks up my calls,” my voice broke as I answered.

The way he looked at me with such sad eyes shook my heart. He was sympathizing with me because he knew my so-called family had abandoned me. They didn’t even want me back anymore.

“Please, just take me back home. I’m sure they’ll change their minds,” I held his hand this time. “Please!” I was growing ridiculous now. But now that he knew I wanted to go back home, I was openly expressing my desires.

“You remember what happened with you last time when you were there, right?” he inquired, and I sniffled. “I don’t care. Just take me back home.” The voices in the air had frightened me. My heart was spinning around too. In fact, I woke up feeling sick, as if something had shifted in me. As if something had been completed inside me and was ready to take a new turn.

297–Going Home

“Nora—Lord Atwood would not want me to bring you back. The brothers will lose their minds. They have warned us not to step back into their pack or mansion for at least four months—” he said, running his hand over my elbow, but I kept refusing to listen to him.

“Why do you think their girlfriends are here? Nobody is allowed back home,” he added, but I kept insisting that I wanted to go back. I was scared of staying here. I couldn’t openly tell him because it would break his heart, but it was also true that there was something about his pack that made me feel like if I didn’t leave now, I would face the most agonizing time of my life here.

“Please!” As I broke down, he finally nodded defeatedly.

“But I will have to inform Lord Atwood,” he finished, and I shook my head one last time before I told him what our perfect plan should be.

“We will only inform them when we have crossed the border so that they cannot ask us to return.” He looked at me sadly, as if I had lost my mind. I was happy now. We were going back home.

“I know what I am doing,” I felt bad that I couldn’t tell him directly that I could feel my need back home.

My Mates needed me and I don’t know how I knew about it.

“Fine!” he sighed defeatedly.

“But I don’t want you to beg before anyone,” he warned me, showing me care and I nodded my head quickly to comfort him.

I don’t think I will need to beg anyone this time.

Tasting 298

298–He Is Scared Of Losing Me

Nora:

“My bags are packed already. Do you want to pack a bag or two? You can stay at the apartment, and I’ll come to stay with you,” I said. Now that I had convinced him to take me back home, I felt guilty and wanted to make him feel better.

“I’ve packed a bag. But Nora, tell me something,” he said, walking back from the balcony after checking the weather. He took my hand and sat me down.

“Are you going to break up with me?” His soft, murmuring voice. touched my ears, and I felt a pang of guilt for him.

“I know you’ve said that we are just friends, but–,” before he could get his hopes up, I needed to tell him more about myself.

It seemed unfair that he was harboring hope because he thought I was single too, which made his expectations grow.

“Brody! There’s something you need to know about me,” I tried to pull my hands away, but he held onto them tightly.

“I’m not asking you to accept me or fall for me. I’m just concerned for you,” he averted his gaze, not giving me a chance to speak.

“I know, but there’s something I want you to know about me,” I gulped, watching his worried expression.

I hadn’t realized how much he cared about being with me. But ever since he had proposed and I declined, I noticed he stood by me through

299 He Is Scared Of Losing Me

thick and thin.

“Brody! I’ve been sexually active with several guys,” by ‘several guys,’ I meant my stepbrothers, who now happen to be my mates.

His face softened, but he didn't seem to be judging me.

"I've been with at least—more than three guys," I worried that if I said too much, he'd figure out who I was talking about.

"And that even when I was in your apartment or—" I stopped, realizing mentioning I did it in his guest room might lead to complications with Silas.

"So?" The moment he asked that, I frowned and stopped avoiding his gaze.

"Every young guy or girl our age does that if they haven't found a mate. I'm not talking about hookups, Nora. I just— I want you to give me a chance," he held my hands even more tightly this time, completely avoiding what I had just told him.

"Brody! Did you not hear what I just said?" I asked, watching his reaction closely.

"I know what you said, and it doesn't matter. The day you tell me you want to be serious with me is when we'll start counting loyalty. You've been straightforward with me from the beginning. I kind of

expected you to have boyfriends here and there. I mean, why would someone like you stay single? You're so gorgeous—" he caressed my cheek, and a smile touched my lips.

"But don't you think it would be unfair to you if I gave you a chance. just because I haven't found a mate?" I watched him shake his head.

200 He is Scared Of Losing Me

"Give me a chance, and I'll prove to you why you don't need anyone else but me. You're clear on your side, and I'm clear on mine. Nora! I will stay with you whenever you need me. Just please tell me you won't go back home and demand that we end this friendship—like

relationship," he referred to the agreement I made with Lord Atwood to clear my and his son's names.

With a smile on my lips, I nodded. "But what if I find my mate?"

I watched his face sadden.

"Then I guess the Moon Goddess never intended for us to be together. I will never ask you to leave your fated mate for me, never! You deserve to be with your mate. But if you don't find him, then I want you to give me just one try. And if you don't like life with me, all the money will be refunded," he joked, and I laughed with him.

“Then okay! If I don’t find my mate, I will honor this agreement.” I knew his heart might be broken by the end of this trip because the brothers would finally accept me. And since they had already shown me that the council couldn’t sign my adoption papers with Lord. Atwood, I had high hopes of being accepted by my mates.

As we prepared to leave, the door swung open, and April barged in.

“I heard from the maids that you guys are leaving too?” She looked so stressed when she saw my packed bags.

“Too?” Brody raised an eyebrow while I avoided her gaze.

“We’ve been summoned by the pack officials. Basically, we’re being told to stay in our own home,” she replied bitterly.

“Oh yes, I know why that is,” Brody muttered. “Will you be staying at the mansion or...?” He trailed off, referring to the brothers’ mansion.

2904 is Scared Of Losing Me

“Umm, not really. We’ll do a quick visit and then head back to my own place. Natalya and I live together, so we’ll stay together while Daphne will return to her own home. Orders from the brothers,” she mumbled. softly, as if she wasn’t happy about being asked not to stay at their

mansion.

“Brody! Why are you taking her back? You know the brothers aren’t even at the mansion. What is she going to do there?” she muttered under her breath, speaking about me right in front of me.

“They’re not at the mansion?” I asked Brody, and he gestured for me that he will take care of it.

“April, I know everything. Let’s just get going before the border shuts down.” I didn’t fully understand what was going on, but I was determined not to waste any more time and start the journey already.

“Okay, we will leave already,” it shocked me that April rushed out almost like so that she could leave before us. And the girls did. They left hours before us while we first feasted because I was not feeling well and Brody wanted to make sure I was all fine before we leave.

209–The Weird Pack!

Tasting 299

299—The Weird Pack!

Nora:

The drive back home was so pleasant. I couldn't remember the last time I felt this good—maybe months ago. But I was finally happy again.

Brody had been silent, expressing his hope that I wouldn't find my mate so that I would stay with him. The minute we crossed the border, I began to creep out at what I was seeing.

The pack looked quite different. It hadn't even been a week.

I frowned at the empty roads and dry air. It was as if nobody lived in this pack. The silence was almost eerie.

"Why is the pack so empty?" I asked Brody, looking out the window curiously.

"I don't really know. I think something similar happened a few years back. They just go on lockdown, and until it's necessary, the pack members don't leave their houses," he replied. "It's happened many times before as well," he added.

"And that doesn't concern you? Why would they do that?" I questioned, feeling uneasy. During the time I lived with the brothers, they never mentioned anything like this to me.

"Umm, they say it's for the pack's security—building walls and watchtowers. The pack members are advised to stay in their homes for safety reasons while their alpha leaders are away for a while," he shrugged.

Aihe Weird Pack!

"The brothers go away, where?" I knew I was asking a lot of questions, but he was responding very calmly, which encouraged me to continue.

"For tougher training," he answered.

I noticed the warriors stationed outside every house, and I couldn't help but turn to Brody. He understood my quizzical stare and explained, "If the pack members need something, like groceries and such, they ask the warriors." I was shocked by the extreme lockdown.

Why was this never mentioned to me before?

“Oh, is that why April and the others were asked to return?” I questioned, and he nodded.

“The pack members are supposed to stay in the pack during these months,” he replied, and I couldn’t help but feel sad.

I wasn’t a pack member anymore, which was why I wasn’t asked to return.

Now Brody had to inform Lord Atwood of our arrival.

Brody called Lord Atwood to inform him of our arrival. I couldn’t discern much of their conversation for a few seconds, but I began to get an idea.

“Oh!” Brody glanced at me quickly before focusing on the road again.

“But we can stay at my apartment though. We only came here to visit. Nora had been missing everyone so—,” His justification for our visit seemed unnecessary. Why did he need to explain so much?

“Well, we’ve already crossed the border, so—,” Brody murmured. I got the sense that Lord Atwood was scolding him for bringing me back.

299 The Word Pack!

“Umm! She’s sleeping right now,” I realized that my stepfather might

want to speak to me. This would be the only time he had asked for me, so I couldn’t miss it.

“I’m awake,” I said, giving Brody a look. He shook his head

disapprovingly, but I pouted to make him understand why I needed to talk to Lord Atwood.

“Hello—,” Before I could cheerfully greet him, he interrupted me.

“Nora, sweet child, why are you coming back? We’re all busy here. You would get bored in the mansion,” His subtle suggestion for me not to come home made me feel upset.

“I never get bored at home,” I smiled weakly. “And I’m already home. now. I’m also feeling very nauseous, so I can’t continue the journey back.”

“The Red Storm Pack is not too close to the Silver Jaw Pack,” I added. I wasn’t lying; I was genuinely feeling unwell. My stomach felt strange, and my head was light.

“Why? Are you okay?” Lord Atwood’s voice filled with concern, and my heart lightened. I smiled secretly at his concern for me.

“I don’t know, honestly, but I need to rest,” I mumbled.

“I have sympathy for you, but please go back home. There has been talk of Mia’s murder being brought up again—” I couldn’t hear him anymore as the call disconnected.

I stared at the blank screen, wondering what Lord Atwood was about to say.

“What happened?” Brody asked.

299–The

299–The Weed Pack!

“He mentioned Mia’s murder being brought up again—and then the call disconnected when the battery died,” I told him as the mansion came

into view.

“Nora! That’s very concerning. I think we should head back home,” he said, parking the car. He turned to tell me we shouldn’t have come here, but I felt an itch in my throat.

“Brody—” My throat suddenly closed up, and I opened the door in a hurry, rushing to the side and throwing up before I could even make it back inside the mansion.

“Hey, are you alright?” Brody asked, his concern evident as he gently rubbed my elbow, but my eyes were watery.

“I don’t know—I’m feeling—sick,” I muttered, trying to cough to clear my throat. But my condition didn’t improve.

I still felt dizzy.

But I did notice the weird stuff around the mansion. There were silver wires on the ground and silver bars, as if something new was being built around the mansion.

“Let’s get you inside quickly,” Brody suggested, realizing that it was better to take me inside before I got worse. He helped me inside and up the stairs. The mansion was dark and silent, unlike how it used to be. The smell of herbs was so strong that it made me feel even more

nauseous.

“What the hell,” Brody sniffed, coughing into his mouth as he took me to the room I thought would be locked.

However, when he turned the doorknob of my room, it opened, revealing that someone had been using my room all this time.

Tasting 300

300–Pregnant For My Stepbrothers

Nora:

He laid me down on the bed that was all clean but had someone’s scent on it. I didn’t say it out loud, but I felt like one of the brothers had been using this room.

I wondered if they had finally thought to get rid of me.

“I will get you some food and also find out what Lord Atwood meant about the case,” he uttered, getting up and quickly leaving the door.

I remained lying before I jumped to my feet once feeling slightly better and twisted the ring on my finger.

“Akira! Tell me what is going on?” I asked her, and she went silent once again. She couldn’t even let out a proper murmur anymore. I had this very bad feeling that something was not right with my body. And then I remembered I hadn’t had my periods, and I thought it was because I was stressed out.

I made my way downstairs and saw April and Natalya rushing out of the mansion like their tails had been set on fire. I found it odd.

Were they hiding when we arrived? Because I know they must have arrived before us. However, I was focusing solely on my own problems now and spoke to the guard, “Can you please get me some stuff?”

Since Brody has told me that everyone who needs something will need to the guards to get for them, I knew what I needed to do.

“Sure, let me know what you want,” the guard uttered.

I gave him a list, but it mainly had just a pregnancy test on it.

I didn’t want it to be true. So much was going on, and being pregnant right now would be deadly for me.

“Can you also tell me where the brothers are?” I asked the guard before he could leave.

“They haven’t come back for some time. Only alpha King Silas did before he too left and they are planning to leave for training very soon for even months,” the guard informed before he turned around and left.

So they were gone for now. I thought they must be partying or enjoying time with their girlfriends but the guard shocked me when he told me that the brothers hadn’t even returned in some time. But why?

I waited at the door, and after some time, the guard returned with the brown package. I took it and then walked back upstairs and into my

room.

Now that I peed on the test and waited for the result, I couldn’t help but recall all my interactions with my mates.

I had sex with every one of them, but with Silas, I had sex only two days ago. So he couldn’t be the father. Then who could be the father? “No! I am not pregnant,” I shook my head, comforting myself, “there is no way I am.”

I knew I shouldn’t be.

I was certain until I was no longer. The test couldn’t lie. The next few minutes were the deadliest for me.

My gaze was fixed on the pregnancy test in my hand. And then the dreaded moment arrived when it revealed the result.

27.83%

300 Megnet For My Stepbrothers

“Two lines!”

My heart sank in my chest as I realized the implications of this.

I was just a teenager, an omega with a dormant wolf from The Red Storm Pack. Taking on the responsibility of a child whose father was one of my stepbrothers would be punishable.

“This can’t be—I can’t be pregnant,” I muttered, stepping back and collapsing onto the bed while clutching the test. I couldn’t fathom that I was carrying the pup of one of my stepbrothers. The most agonizing part was not knowing which one.

My heart throbbed at the thought of the upcoming months. How would I face the pack? And my stepfather, who had taken me in and even bestowed his name upon me despite our lack of blood relation?

And this was how I repaid his kindness? By sleeping with his quadruplet sons and getting pregnant by one of them?

“But they are all my mates,” I lamented, burying my face in my hands. and dropping the test. Despite being my mates, none of them had made. our relationship public. They kept me close, hoping that

one day they would convince their father not to sign my adoption papers and make me their mate.

But then, one by one, they decided to end our relationship and forsake our mate bond.

“How do I tell them I’m pregnant?” I wondered aloud, taking a deep breath and gazing at my reflection in the mirror beside the bed. As my heart and mind swirled with concerns about the future of my child and myself, the door suddenly burst open, with warriors storming in.

Their guns pointed at my face as they rushed toward me. It was so

300 Pregnant For My Stepbrothers

sudden that I couldn’t get out of bed to defend myself. Before I knew it, a warrior had me spun around in bed, his knee pressed against my back as he handcuffed my hands behind me.

“What is going on?” I uttered in confusion, my voice breaking as I had not seen warriors break into my room and look so charged before.

“You are under arrest for the murder of a pack member,” he hissed, almost shouting. The others began searching every corner of my bedroom, making me feel exposed.