



Taste: A Fantasy Adventure

Mary E. Twomey

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What to do when your crush turns out to be a monster (and other such problems).

Just when correctional nurse October Grace has a handle on her stressful job and taking care of her mentally ill mother, a shapeshifting warrior and a half-vampire plunge her into a foreign land that's on the brink of starvation. Now, with a ticking clock and a target on her back, October takes up the mantle of becoming one of the rare Omens who can bring hope to a dying world.

Mason and Von remain by her side to shield the national treasure while she sacrifices herself to reap the souls that will feed the nations of Terraway. As the death toll rises daily, October finds herself tangled up in a cutthroat world where fairytale creatures run wild... and every day is a new bloody battle.

Taste is book one in an 8-part fantasy romance series.

Taste: A Fantasy Adventure Details

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Author : Mary E. Twomey

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From Reader Review Taste: A Fantasy Adventure for online ebook

Lilith Bealove says

I just finished Taste, and I still have goosebumps rolling across my flesh. I did not read the excerpt in the back for the second book because I have plans to download and start on that tonight. As much as I want to, I cannot my entire day curled up on the couch following the adventures of October, Von, Mason, Ollie, Danny, Mariang, and Ezra.

On to my actual review: This is the first book I have read by Mary E. Twomey. I came across Taste while I was browsing through paranormal romance - a genre I have not really explored before. I was attempting to do research in order to write my own romance novels. I did not read the description of Taste and just downloaded it with a ton of other free reads. I had no idea what I was getting myself into. Based solely on the title and cover, I thought there would be more romance and possibly some erotic scenes, but I was not disappointed with the lack of either. Personally, I do not feel that this first installment of the Terraway Books falls under the category of romance, but we shall see how my opinion changes throughout the series.

The book is written in the first person from the point of view of October Grace, a 22-year-old woman that I relate to more than I should. Mary E. Twomey does a beautiful job of building an entirely new world, creatures that I had no problem imagining, and characters that make you want to see them succeed. I even have a soft spot in my heart for Von, Danny, and Finn! Characters that, at this point, I am unsure if I should like or not.

I felt that the beginning was slow to start, but this helped me to relate even more to October. Her mother, her childhood (maybe not exactly the hoarding), and the mental illness all hit close to home for me and instantly made me love her. Mary E. Twomey wrote out symptoms and ticks of OCD and germ-o-phobia that most people do not consider and I appreciate the detail and commitment to a mentally ill character! While everything might not be a perfect representation of the illness, it warms my heart to see an author creating a character with a flaw of this sort.

I absolutely love this book and highly recommend it to anyone who is dying for some adventure, laced with light romance. It does end on a cliffhanger, with two other loose ends that I /need/ answers to, but otherwise I am happy with the way the author chose to end her first installment of this series! I feel that Mary E. Twomey could do with another run through of the book to clear up at least one of the two unanswered questions, but otherwise, I found very little wrong with the book as far as editing and proofreading go. I cannot wait to dig into the second book tonight!

Natalie says

So good, a little disgusting and so damn realistic it hurt. So the MC has OCD, pride, trust issues and is stubborn. Thankfully she's kickass and not afraid of those around her. I loved the guys Von and Mason. Mainly Mason. Von has a bit of growing up to do. Didn't like Lang, Bev and Beto can pretty much go to hell. Questions left unanswered. Ends in one hell of a cliffhanger so looking forward to reading the next one.

Raquel Evans says

This book is hard to rate. The writing is good, and the characters are fantastic (some of them are also disturbing, but a fantastically characterized disturbing). From that perspective it deserves a higher rating.

However, I have a suspicion that some of the relationships in this book are set up to be headed in kind of disturbing places, and reading some of the reviews on the rest of the series indicates that I'm not the only one with concerns. Because of this, I'm not planning to read the rest of this series, and it seems silly to rate a first book in a series very highly if it's turned me off from reading the rest of the series.

Claire (bookscoffeeandrepeat) says

I wouldn't normally read books like this anymore BUT

Filipino folklore caught my attention.

Runningrabbit says

Tastes like spirit

This is a complex novel with a number of things spiralling out of nowhere but leaves the reader waiting to see what mess the protagonist, October, finds herself in next.

I love the insight the author gives us on multiple characters, including peripheral characters, in both their approach to their immediate lifestyles and their response to the environment they find themselves in, including what they feel their responsibilities are. Or not. The characters are incredibly diverse and beautifully laid out keeping the reader's full attention, whilst not letting the novel lose its impact.

I'm looking forward to both the direction the novel takes, especially what October and her crew do next.

Tiffany says

Kudos to the author as I was so grossed out for generally the first 20-30% of the book from the vivid and realistic descriptions. I'm honestly not sure how my stomach made it through some of those scenes.

The story itself was unique and most of the characters were well defined. All in all a good read for me.

Punkin says

Hmm

Interesting, creepy, sad and funny. Definitely not very graphic and major minor on the romance. Meh on the adventure as well. But I did keep turning pages..

Cindy says**Surprised**

I am extremely surprised how much I enjoyed this story. October is a bit difficult to deal with at first since her OCD is pretty rough. As I got to know her more, the more I realized that she has pushed through so much and is far stronger than she looks. She works in a prison as a nurse so she has to be tough. I think what annoyed me most was how she lets everyone push her limits, especially her mother.

Being the Omen sounds like it will be a tough job. Her, Mason, and Von all have some major baggage. I really wonder how they will figure this all out. Still, to be connected to two hot guys isn't so bad. Perhaps she will see that eventually.

Coco.V says

FREE on Amazon today (10/24/2017)!

Carolyn says

I received this book as a free ARC in exchange for an honest review. This was an interesting story. It was slow at first and took some time getting into, but about 10 chapters in the action picked up and started to get more fun. The characters are likable, though I had a hard time with October. She seemed to have somewhat of a split personality, though maybe that's the point. I enjoyed seeing how Twomey handles neuroses. The Filipino folklore is intriguing. I look forward to finding out more about the world that Twomey has created.

Amber says

I picked this up purely because I was curious to see how Filipino folklore would be used and got SO much more than I expected. I'll give a warning that there is abuse in this book as well as some self harm but for me it was handled well.

DW says

Well.. that was different but in a super fun way!!!

This is the same author that helped me realize that garden gnomes are sexy. Do not judge me!

Honestly, I'm not sure how to explain what was happening. We are taken to a whole different world. There are fish people, goblins, half vampires, horse people, mud people and Vikings (my favorite).

They are trying to save their world from starving.

Turns out October Grace has a gift that can save them.

October is OCD. She has some very strange ways. She does not like people to touch her and is a bit of germaphobe. More than anything, she is the most stubborn person ever. When she gets sucked into all the drama with the other world, she goes into panic mode but she handles her shit and realizes just how powerful she is.

She makes really great friends and allies with some of these people. They help her cope with the changes in her.

Mason, the Viking and Von the half vampire are like her support system.

Mason is my favorite. I just know that he is all kinds of sexy!

Anyway.. it was a fun read. I will be moving on to book 2 soonish!!

Nicki K. says

This book was about a million times better than I expected, but, seriously, what was up with that ending?
Uncool.

3.5/5

Kathryn John says

I received this book as an ARC Reader. I didn't know what to expect but I knew it'd be fantasy and I like fantasy so I did my best to keep an open mind and I jumped in. The casual style of writing and super casual voice at first made me suspect I had made a mistake and the book would be unprofessional trash.

Ooooooh boy was I wrong!

The dialogue was entertaining and quick-witted and the action kept me going going going till my family had to bug me to stop reading and tend to my mommy duties. I never wanted to put it down and groused that I had to go to bed or do chores/routines. I loved how the relationships blossomed. I especially loved how October acted around Mason when he was a wolf. It was so sweet!!

I don't have OCD but the way October's described and how she feels/thinks about germs is amazingly well

done. I was highly impressed with how the author handled that.

I have 3 issues which prevent me from giving this book a full 5 stars.

1) It's minor but October seems to backtrack at one point with how she feels about the pulling. First she's starting to be cool with it because it calms her OCD and makes her believe she can have a normal life and then suddenly she's 100% against it and you get to watch her get over it again in a slower (though still quickly so we don't get bored). It made me stop and go "hmm" but not for long because the book was too good to want to stop for long.

2) October's personality undergoes quite a shift that didn't match what we're initially given. At first she has the mentality of a victim of lifetime abuse and then she's a tough cookie who can take on violent prisoners and burly warriors. Also, she starts off as an introverted turtle who can barely speak to people and then exchanging witty banter with people. It does make a mention that even she's surprised that she's being social but it's not enough for me.

3) The main action where they're trying to awaken her as an Omen goes on and on and on. October is constantly trying to escape and running and fighting but instead of moving forward, the action seems to be taking her in circles. It was also dragged out quite a bit so that, even though it was exciting, it started to get old after awhile.

My last point doesn't affect the stars I gave. Danny is unforgivably horrible. He is so incredibly antagonistic and mean. Violent even. Maybe we'll get more story on him later, but he was an awful character and his personality wasn't really explained. I don't hate him because his cruelty falls to the wayside after awhile till I've mostly forgotten about it, but I still don't like him.

Don't let my points think this isn't a good book though. I wish I could have given it 4.5 stars instead of 4 because I didn't just "like" it. I LOVED it!!! I'm really looking forward to reading the sequel.

Continuum says

I'm so sad to give this only 2 stars, because I think that the author is very talented. I liked her style. She writes very believably. But here lies the problem: the descriptions about bugs, and mud, and trash and so on are so realistic, that every time the heroine scratched herself I started scratching.

This book gave me an allergic reaction. I'm talking goose bumps, the itching and just general disgust.

Another thing that bothered me was the mythology itself. I still can't wrap my head around the fact of souls powering suns. And where exactly are those suns anyway? It wasn't explained. Are those alternate realities? Alternate worlds? Something else?

I also didn't like the heroine. Maybe it's my problem and I simply can't relate to someone with OCD, although the author managed to show it VERY believably, but her lack of spine got on my nerve. And then, what got on my nerve was how quickly she changed.

One moment she was an introvert, and the next - she was like a champion fighter who was at ease with making jokes.

I just couldn't force myself to believe in those changes, and that made me think that the heroine was simply

undeveloped.

Even worse was the plot. Alright, not worse. The worse were the bugs. But the plot comes second. I just didn't see enough of it.

The scene where she was to be tested (her hand was to be broken/ though they tried that with her spine - and then she forgave the guy pretty quickly I might add) - that scene went on and on and on for so long, I almost DNF the book.

And when finally she was awakened into her new duties, the book kinda just ends.

This seemed to me not like the whole story, but rather the very long prologue that could have been great if all the boring parts were taken out. Oh, and the bugs.

Let's just say that Taste left a bad taste in my mouth, and no matter how much I liked the author's style, I'm not going anywhere near this series again.
