



Mating the Huntress

Talia Hibbert

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This Halloween, love bites back... *hard*.

Chastity Adofu knows a monster when she sees one. As soon as Luke Anthony wanders into her family's coffee shop, she recognises the evil lurking beneath his charming smile and fantastic arse. The handsome werewolf is determined to have her—but she's determined to cut out his heart.

Little does she know, Luke's plans for her are far more pleasurable than murder. And when the full moon rises, all bets are off...

Warning: Mating the Huntress is 30,000+ words of red-hot, Halloween-themed romance. This novella contains one flirtatious, cursed creature of the night, one badass, knife-happy heroine, and forbidden lust at first sight. Please read responsibly!

Mating the Huntress Details

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Author : Talia Hibbert

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From Reader Review *Mating the Huntress* for online ebook

destiny ??? [howling libraries] says

Most of you are surely already aware of how much I love Talia's writing in general, but her stories are usually contemporary romance—which she excels at, don't get me wrong, but I've been in such a paranormal mood lately that, when I heard she was releasing her first ever paranormal romance novella, I was **freaking pumped**.

They were fated, after all. They were written in the stars.

Mating the Huntress is a short little story about a woman from a family of werewolf hunters, who's in for quite a shock when she learns that a local Were has not only taken an interest in her—he's recognizing her as his fated **mate**, destined to fall in love and live happily ever after with him in his adorable little woodland cottage. I mean... it's precious.

In typical Talia Hibbert fashion—and, as you can guess from the synopsis, no doubt—Chastity is **not having it** for a while. She's been raised to view Weres as these blood-crazed, murderous beasts, and she's content to keep viewing them that way, even if the Were who's just asked her out on a date is incredibly handsome... and sweet... and funny... I digress. Chastity is a self-assured, sexy, intelligent, angry, and slightly violent woman, and I loved her, even though I occasionally wanted to smack her upside the back of her head.

Now, for the first time, he knew loneliness. Felt the gap of her absence. Felt true hunger.

Fun plot, kick-ass heroine, and atmospheric setting aside, it wouldn't be one of Talia's novels without a devastatingly adorable, lovable, sweet hero. Having dealt with anger issues in his younger days, Luke's an artist now, using his wood-carving skills to keep his rage at bay—and doing a damn good job of it, considering how calm he manages to stay while Chastity is calling him names and, er... *trying to murder him...*

Seriously, though, these two characters are so damn cute, and I loved watching them gradually connect as Luke manages to show Chastity and her family of huntresses that things aren't exactly what they've assumed them to be in the world of Weres. The entire “mating” aspect was one that might sound peculiar if you're not accustomed to fantasy romance stories, but if you *are*, Talia pulls it off really well and keeps things perfectly consensual and fun. No gross, pushy alpha males in this pack! (Not that there really *is* a pack, because Luke is kind of a loner, and, well... I'm getting off topic again, aren't I.)

She wasn't sweet or gentle or biddable. She was a bloodthirsty fucking murderer. His heart sang.

If I had to pick one single favorite thing about *Mating the Huntress*, I'm pretty sure it would be how ridiculously enamored Luke is by Chastity's violence and general bloodlust. I know it sounds odd out of context, but there are multiple moments where Chastity is just being this rage-filled little *monster*, and Luke

is left swooning over her, and it's just downright adorable. Alternatively, her outbursts tend to create a lot of tension, which leads me to my next point: as always, Talia's steamy scenes are well written, with a refreshing focus on **mutual** pleasure, consent, and a little dominance with a lot of love behind it.

If I had to make any complaint, it would be that I wish this story was longer! I would absolutely love for this to have been written as a full novel, which would have given Chastity a little more time to believably overcome the prejudices she'd been raised in (and more time for Luke to be an angsty, lovestruck puppy). Then again, does wanting *more* of a story even count as a complaint? I adore everything I've read by Talia so far, and I'm positive I will continue to do so in the future!

All quotes come from an advance copy and may not match the final release. Thank you so much to the author for providing me with this ARC in exchange for an honest review!

Kiki says

Even though I have marked this as a beta hero, he isn't. He's a strong alpha man and wolf who's comfortable to be attracted to equally or more strong alpha woman. In fact if his mate is stronger to him his beast is more than comfortable to submit to her.

Heroine was his mate. He was excited to find her and would've accepted her as she came. He was thoughtful and caring when he thought she was a shy fragile wallflower. He was soft and protective. But the moment he realised her true nature he was beyond excited. That's when he and his beast fell IN love. They were absolutely thrilled by her dominating and somewhat aggressive hunter's nature. They embraced it. And neither were insecure by the other's strength. Just like a partnership and healthy relationship should be.

Navessa says

Well, Talia Hibbert just single-handedly restored my faith in the paranormal romance genre. This is apparently her first foray into PR and yet she somehow managed to pack more wit, humor, world-building, diversity, sex, and plot into this 30k word novella than most authors do in half a series.

Like, I'm kind of blown away by it.

I have nothing negative to say about this book. NOTHING. Which, if you've read literally any of my other reviews, you know is a minor miracle.

When I wasn't cackling like some sort of deranged werebeast, I was swooning over the chemistry. When I wasn't fist pumping for all the inherent feminism in here, I was cheerleading for all the progressive themes.

You're telling me you can have a big bad alpha man capable of wholesale slaughter who also has a dry, whip-sharp sense of humor AND who listens to the female lead, respects her boundaries, never once bullies, manhandles, or intentionally intimidates her?

The fuck up. Shut it.

You're telling me you can have a kick-ass female lead who is also super in touch with her emotions, likes girly clothes, has stellar self-confidence, and, despite being trained her entire life that werewolves need to be hunted down and killed, is able to think logically and rationally when she's faced with one who breaks the mold? Oh, and she has a hilarious inner monologue to boot?

I don't...what is even happening right now?

Aside from the amazing male and female leads, the writing here is also solid. There are moments of beautiful imagery, a lot of the time followed up with some of the lines that had me smiling so hard it hurt.

"The night would have been pitch-black if it weren't for the light of the waxing moon, close to full and pure as pearl. Beneath the haunting gloom lay a forest soaked in secrets, and at its shadowed maw, a little cabin. Inside that cabin lurked death. He, also known as Luke, was trying not to fidget"

^ because the female lead is on her way over to his "lair" and he's nervous.

ADORBS!

If you're looking for a fun, hot, quick read that isn't just the typical zero calorie brain fluff that a lot of novellas are, GO FORTH AND BUY THIS. I promise you won't regret it.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm off to inhale everything else this author has ever written.

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Leo (Queen of the Rants and the Crazy) says

I'm giving this 5 stars but it's more like 4 stars because how often do we get a strong heroine with a sweet virgin hero? Almost never.

With this high rating I want to encourage authors to keep writing strong heroines.

I absolutely loved both characters! Nothing to complain here.

I hope the author continues with the heroine's siblings! I would love to read about them!

ambsreads says

Thank you to the publisher as I received an eARC of *Mating The Huntress* by Talia Hibbert. This in no way impacted my thoughts, feelings, opinions or rating on the book.

FIND MY REVIEW FOR MATING THE HUNTRESS ON MY BLOG

If you know me or have been on my blog this year you probably know that Talia Hibbert is my favourite romance author to ever exist. Her books make me swoon and they typically fall in the contemporary genre. *Mating The Huntress* changed that game and if Talia Hibbert doesn't continue down paranormal romance I will send her a vial of my tears.

I was a big paranormal fan about ten years ago – around the time I first read *Twilight*. Over the years it is clear that werewolves and vampires have died off from mainstream books and no one really goes near them too much. Talia Hibbert needs to bring back them because that woman has an utter skill that highlights them. Honestly, if you haven't read one of Talia's books, what are you doing?

Mating The Huntress follows a dual perspective of Luke and Chastity. Luke is a werewolf and Chastity is from a long line of female werewolf hunters. Except Chastity isn't actually trained to be a werewolf hunter due to a prophecy that was told when she was born. Literally, someone busted into the room she was being born and gave her parents the prophecy. I guess that adds to the weirdness when Luke starts romantically pursuing Chastity. It is definitely not something that fits the norm and Chastity is desperate to prove herself to her family. However, these things never go to plan and Chastity learns things that have been forgotten in the history of werewolf hunters that change her perspective.

Honestly, this is such a short read that it is worth your time. It is the perfect story for Halloween, even if you are like me and don't celebrate it (I live in Australia, it isn't that weird). As much as I did love this book it did have a few flaws that I would be betraying myself if I didn't talk about.

I think the first thing about *Mating The Huntress* that kind of threw me off was the lack of world building. This is an incredibly short book but we are basically thrown into a world with no idea of what is happening. The prologue really sets the scene but apart from that...nothing. I think what factored into that was the fact that this was so short. Talia definitely focused on the romance, but it really left the paranormal aspect to this story feeling a little lacklustre. I have no doubts that if Talia continues to write paranormal (which I hope she does) that this will improve.

My other problem is a whammy, the fact this was so short. It really did make aspects of the book feel rushed, including the romance. I felt like I got whiplash from the drama at one point and the resolution coming so damn fast. Again, I understand the length of this book heavily impacted that but it still would have been nice to have at least 50 more pages.

I really loved the family dynamic of Chastity's family. The Adofo's are incredibly close family. One that supports each other no matter what and is willing to take on board new information – even if it counters everything they know. It was incredibly sweet to read the dynamics between siblings since the Adofo's are a big family.

Finally, this book had the kickass female characters that I love from Talia Hibbert. Chastity is own voices in the sense that she is plus size and black, which is always such a great inclusion. Chastity is also incredibly sassy and just well written. Her personality is the highlight of this book and I found myself laughing incredibly hard at the character dynamics.

Overall, despite its minor flaws *Mating The Huntress* is another knockout by Talia Hibbert. I have literally read all her works and I will continue to read them. They are worth every second and are just excellently done.

Anne Boleyn's Ghost says

So if there was ever a weekend that I needed to read about a werewolf who ate rapists, it was this weekend.

Wait, did I write "ate"? My bad. It was "enthusiastically kill them with his mouth."

Yes, this was CLEARLY a delight. But what else would you expect from Talia Hibbert? Her voice is fresh and unique, and her stories are **well-crafted and quirky**. *Mating the Huntress* is no different.

I loved this. A lot. It has:

- *A strong heroine in **Chastity**, the huntress determined to claim her birthright, and a hero strong enough for her in **Luke**, the werewolf who pulls off covetous without creepy

- *A **fierce yet precious** pairing, from Luke's claws and pumpkin carvings to Chas' daggers and cupcakes

- ***Humor** in spades. *Mating the Huntress* was one funny (like laugh aloud funny) gem

- *Deliciously **dirty and sweet** sexcapades

- ***Halloween**, the best holiday ever ????

I hope that this is not Hibbert's only foray into paranormal romance. But if it is, I will take it. It made me laugh after a hellish week for my country and my soul. That is good enough.

Read for SBTB October - December 2018 Quarterly Challenge: A paranormal romance.

Meags says

4.5 Stars

Look, if you're a romance reader and you haven't read a Talia Hibbert book yet, do yourself a favour and get on it! This woman is like a glitter-dusted unicorn and a fierce battle clad Pegasus combined – she's that f*cking magnificent. Not only is her writing strong and her stories effortlessly engaging (not matter the genre), but her characters are some of the absolute best in the romance genre today.

In *Mating the Huntress*, Hibbert tries her hand at paranormal romance, mixing her own werewolf lore with the enemies-to-lovers trope and a tasty fated mates theme. Needless to say, she nailed it.

With a fierce and capable female lead in Chastity and a love-struck werewolf hero in Luke, Hibbert delivered a perfectly matched mismatched pair in these two extremely likeable characters.

Most importantly – at least for me – this story was funny AF! In fewer than 140 pages I highlighted at least 16 times – I would have done more but I was trying to rein myself in. I laughed a good deal, and not in a dainty, attractively polite giggle kind of way, but in a snort until you dribble kind of way. I was particularly tickled by Luke's dreamy-eyed reaction when Chastity initially tried to kill him. The fact he was more in awe than ever when his woman proved all powerful and got all knife-happy was endlessly entertaining.

I really hope Hibbert decides to write more PNR because she has an obvious knack for it. This novella proved to be a seriously fun and steamy read, and I'm certain this will be a favoured re-read of mine in the future.

READ IT!

Celestine says

I generally don't read too many shifter romances - the set-up seems hokey and derivative to me, usually. My one exception is dragons, probably because they have a medieval flare for some of them. But wolves, packs and werewolves never make it into my reading pile. Then I read a review from a friend who laughed her way through this, and the tongue-in-cheek humor tickled my funny bone. So I tried this - and laughed. It was short, played the fated mates card, and featured a strangely sensitive monster. Plus, it works for the "werewolves" category in my Halloween Reading Challenge. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough character development or action-based plot for me. However, others have enjoyed this book, and if you are looking for something light, fun and steamy for Halloween, you might give this a try.

Book source: Purchased.

Hollis says

Once he figured out how to ask a human woman on a date, Luke would mate her and fuck her and live happily ever after as her devoted swain. [...] But he was getting ahead of himself. He should probably say hello first.

Where are my PNR peoples at? You **need** this book.

*Just the other day he'd googled **How to ask a woman out on a date without making her fear for her life** -- but the results hadn't been particularly helpful.*

Okay, so it's a novella, yes, but whatever. This was perfectly paced, perfectly plotted, perfectly sexy and funny and sweet. Hibbert straddles the line between poking fun at the fated mate trope while also offering something new and kinda fresh to the concept. Honestly as a whole MATING THE HUNTRESS is kind of a love letter to the genre while still being a little silly, too. I have more quotes than I do review but oh well.

"You're very sexy when you're trying to remove my vital organs."

Despite all my good intentions otherwise this is my first read by this author and the reason it skipped ahead of the others on my tbr was both because it was seasonally appropriate and short. And also saved me having to pick another ARC to read. Win win win win and forever winning.

"If it's any consolation, 99% of Werewolves are raging arseholes anyway."

"That is *not* a consolation."

"Sorry. I'm not good with morals."

K.J. Charles says

This was pure utter glee. Get it right now.

I am not a PNR reader generally because I have strong opinions about a couple of the most beloved tropes, namely that werewolves/vampires are sexy rather than horrific bloodthirsty monsters (don't @ me), and the whole fated mates thing, which I find creepy and disturbing on a number of levels. I dislike these things so much that I hesitated for like ten seconds about getting this book even though it's Talia Hibbert. Fortunately, I had faith.

- a) He's a proper werewolf. He turns into a slaving murder biped with backwards knees and claws, and eats people's faces. *Thank you.*
- b) The fated mate business is handled superbly. Luke's drooling adoration, causing him to regard Chastity's efforts to murder him as an endearing quirk, is pure hilarity, but what really works is the fact that even though there is Overwhelming Need for Paranormal Sexytimes...Chastity still gets to choose. And she thinks. And she says no sometimes, *and Luke listens.* He listens to everything she says because his desire for her isn't a need to 'possess' her, it's a longing for her be happily with him, and even amid the fated-mateyness he knows perfectly well that's solely hers to give, not his to take.
- c) It's hilarious, with so many laugh-out-loud lines. One of the funniest books I've read in ages. I could have read Luke's hapless admiration of Chastity's extreme violence at three times the length.

A joy, do not miss out.

Casey says

I truly enjoyed this much more than I anticipated. With that title I wasn't prepared for such a well thought out story, but hey, stranger things have happened. This was a short, funny, paranormal romance that I really hope is the start of a series because I would certainly read more about these characters.

Elena says

Read for the **URR Halloween 2018 Reading Challenge: a romance about werewolves.**

I like paranormal romance. Well, I like *the idea* of it, but as it turns out most of the PNR books I've come across over the years just ended up pissing me off. The problem I have with the genre is that it seems to be permanently stuck in between the most aggravatingly sexist tropes and clichés the romance genre has to offer (romance authors apparently have a neverending reservoir of the stuff) and the minimum amount of characterization skills required of the authors of that sub-genre of urban fantasy sadly marketed at women... you know, that type of UF where the heroines are all (unknowingly) sexy, (generically) badass and - most important of all! - "snarky", whatever the hell that means since most of those chicks are barely able to string a couple of sentences together...

... sorry, I digress. What I meant to say is that after the latest excruciating PNR disappointment **side eyes*

*Pestilence** I swore off the genre entirely. It lasted about a week and then I came across K.J. Charles's review of the wonderfully titled **Mating the Huntress: An Interracial Romance** and since I couldn't pass up the opportunity to indulge myself while having the chance to blame someone else for the inevitable disaster it would have been silly of me to ignore the reading advice of such a dependable, smart author and reviewer, I grabbed a copy of the book and started reading.

The night would have been pitch black if it weren't for the light of the waxing moon, close to full and pure as pearl. Beneath the haunting gloom lay a forest soaked in secrets, and at its shadowed maw, a little cabin. Inside that cabin lurked death. He, also known as Luke, was trying not to fidget.

The fidgeting monster is waiting for his date which, unbeknownst to him, just so happens to be part of a family of werewolves hunters - a high-risk job and life-mission passed down the female line (the Adofos keep busy baking, working at the family café and/or healing those in need). The fidgeting monster is positive that the girl is his fated mate and he's ready to charm the pants off her with spooky movies (it's almost Halloween of course) and red velvet cupcakes... not a bad combo and definitely a more considerate seduction plan than what you usually see around reading PNR. Unfortunately the lady has other ideas, namely to torture some information out of him, kill him, rip his heart out and present it to the matriarch of her family to finally gain her approval as a huntress.

Hilarity ensues.

Then some steamy moments.

Then some more fun.

Then some adorable exchanges between the fidgeting monster and the blood-thirsty huntress.

On repeat.

In short, this book is a complete delight. Not only that, but a 100% guilt-free pleasure: I can count on the fingers of one hand the times I've read any kind of romance without having to repeat in my head like a mantra *"it's ok to enjoy problematic stuff now and again as long as you recognize what's problematic about it, it doesn't make you a bad person, you're not a bad person, you're not a bad person, you're not a bad person, ect."* But, fu*k it: that's no way to live, is it?

Comes to my rescue **Talia Hibbert** (thanks for existing, not to be a creep or anything but from now on I'll doggedly follow you around like I'm a were and you're my fated one), who wrote an incredibly fun, sweet, steamy gem of a little story, playing with genre tropes and subverting them, crafting a lovely, realistic and immediately likeable cast of characters and hilarious and touching dialogues. A PNR that you can enjoy without feeling the need to bleach your brain once you're finished with it: a delight.

So basically, what I wanted to say is that... **dun dun duuun!** **THERE IS GOOD PNR OUT THERE FOLKS!!!**

Read for the **URR Halloween 2018 Reading Challenge: a romance about werewolves.**

Emma says

I read this book a while ago and I wasn't going to review it, then I thought, my friends would really enjoy it. So, the hero is a werewolf, the sweetest one, he was so adorable in his attempts to approach the heroine and ask her for a date.

Just the other day he'd googled How to ask a woman out on a date without making her fear for her life, but the results hadn't been particularly helpful.

While the heroine was trying to hunt him down to prove herself in a family of huntresses, that believes werewolves are monstrous animals with no humanity left.

Judging by the way his presence drove up her pulse, heated her blood and set her on edge, killing him might just be her destiny.

So, you can imagine how much I enjoyed their interactions. They were sweet, hot and funny.

"You're very sexy when you're trying to remove my vital organs."

Even though the author said it's just a holiday novella. I hope she writes more about those kickass huntresses.

Rachel Annie says

This book was like Christmas in October for me!

happy dance

I'd been following the author, Talia Hibbert, on social media for a while but hadn't jumped into her books yet as I don't read Contemporary Romance all that often. When I heard she'd be releasing her first foray into Paranormal Romance, I was stoked! I snatched this novella up on pre-order and with every tease she posted on Twitter I became more impatient to read this story of a besotted werewolf and the huntress trying to prove herself to her family by killing him. (An amazing idea for a meet-cute, btw!)

The MC's per Ms Hibbert: (view spoiler)

heart eyes

Mating the Huntress doesn't follow the "typical" PNR formula with some baddie threatening this or that and the couple fighting for their lives, for the world, etc etc. This book is more...intimate? And in a good way! The focus is on the characters' relationship with each other (kinda like many CR's) and the push and pull of them getting their HEA. And Luke (despite the whole were thing, lol) is such a good bean. He gives Chastity the space she needs to figure things out, never pushing her or pulling the alpha card. Chas, of course, can

hold her own due to her huntress lineage, but it's a welcome change in this genre for a big bad wolf shifter to actually respect his mate's boundaries.

Oh, and the form he takes when he shifts is more classic movie werewolf than large canine which is kinda different and pretty neat. The scenes with him as his rather monstrous alter ego also manage to be quite endearing, which is a feat in and of itself. XD

Sexy, smart, and often sweet, I truly hope this becomes a series. With many huntress sisters and her brothers as "healers", there's plenty more to dig into and I hope to read future books about the Adofo family. Chas' brother Justice, a man of few words, is a character I'd definitely like to learn more about. I feel there's an intriguing backstory there...

If you're looking for a relationship-centric PNR with quick-witted humor and a book boyfriend-worthy hero, I highly recommend this novella.

Rhode says

Quick, fun, feminist and frothy. Low angst, high sweetness.
