



# Taste

*Kate Evangelista*

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## **Taste** Kate Evangelista

At Barinkoff Academy, there's only one rule: no students on campus after curfew. Phoenix McKay soon finds out why when she is left behind at sunset. A group calling themselves night students threaten to taste her flesh until she is saved by a mysterious, alluring boy. With his pale skin, dark eyes, and mesmerizing voice, Demitri is both irresistible and impenetrable. He warns her to stay away from his dangerous world of flesh eaters. Unfortunately, the gorgeous and playful Luka has other plans. When Phoenix is caught between her physical and her emotional attraction, she becomes the keeper of a deadly secret that will rock the foundations of an ancient civilization living beneath Barinkoff Academy. Phoenix doesn't realize until it is too late that the closer she gets to both Demitri and Luka the more she is plunging them all into a centuries old feud.

## **Taste Details**

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# From Reader Review Taste for online ebook

## Jilly says

Why did I want to read this? It is soooooo stupid!

Think Vampire Academy bad knock-off. ~~Rose~~ Phoenix is at an exclusive school for the super elite. She is also immature, reckless, a poor decision-maker, overly emotional, and every kind of ridiculous.

The school has a strict curfew rule. If you are on campus after curfew, you are expelled. No exceptions. (except when there is an exception)

Phoenix falls asleep in the library and breaks the rule. As she runs to leave campus, she finds out there are students at night. Scary, beautiful, flesh-eating students. And, of course they are dressed in Victorian-style clothing because... well, I'm not exactly sure why... Huh.

The most beautiful male of them all saves her life and gets her back to the dorms safely. His name is Dimitri. Yes, Dimitri.

Instead of being happy that she wasn't caught breaking curfew and escaping expulsion, she decides she needs to learn more about these night students and breaks curfew again the following night. It really is a good thing that the librarian has never thought of, I don't know, checking to make sure the library is empty of students since this curfew thing is such a big deal. You know, with the flesh-eating monsters showing up each evening. Ah well, the "honor system" always works out fine for teens and they *never* do things they aren't supposed to do.

On her second night, Phoenix is once again almost killed because a beautiful girl finds out she was saved by Dimitri the night before, so of course this girl wants to kill her for catching Dimitri's eye. Zombie-bitch be jelly.

Of course, she gets turned into one of them and is immediately transformed into a beautiful girl. A beautiful girl who now gets to dress in Victorian clothes and be kissed by Dimitri. Now they are in love. But wait, another beautiful guy also wants her. She's the belle of the Zombie Ball!

Just freaking shoot my eyes out instead of making me read this crap.

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## Kelly says

I'm a sucker for love triangles, I love them but I hate them at the same time. Does it make sense? Maybe. Maybe not. The thing is, I hate to choose between a character or another and that's probably why I get attached to both. So at the end of the book I'll feel bad for the one who isn't 'chosen'..

But also good for the one who's gonna be happy with the girl.

Because yeah, that's often one girl with two hot guys. But I'm not complaining, because I like it that way! Anyway, I got lost into my explanation of my emotional problem when there are love triangles. And here, I loved Demitri but also Luka. (*Me, predictable? Not at all..*)

Taste is about zombies but not the 'obvious' one that you can identify easily..

(view spoiler)

No because these modern-zombies are all super-hot-sexy-perfect-and-flawless-good-looking like this.. (he's my Luka)

Anyway, I really liked this story. This is the first (or maybe second) book I've read about flesh eaters. I'm not usually a fan of it but I was hooked by this story! I wanted to know more about their history and why Dray (Demitri's brother) needed a human like Phoenix to help him and his people. She's doing lots of tests for him and put herself in danger because of it.

And there's also Calixta.. What can I say about her? She's a pain in the ass. Plain and simple. So just so you know Calixta..

I really enjoyed reading this book. I would have liked to know more at the end, though. (view spoiler)

I recommend it and I hope you'll like it too! (I had a copy of this book from the author in exchange of a review) :).

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## **BookOwl BookOwl says**

LOOOOOL I'M ACTUALLY LAUGHING AT THIS SYNOPSIS!

I read this earlier this year, like January mainly because I WANTED TO SEE IF THE BOOK WAS GOING TO BE JUST LIKE THE SYNOPSIS. I HOPED IT WOULDN'T, I REALLY DID BUT IT WAS EVERY BIT THE SAME!

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## Jessi (Novel Heartbeat) says

From my blog Auntie Spinelli Reads

3.5/5

Before I read this, with the mention of Night and Day students I just couldn't help myself...I immediately thought of this:

So of course I was intrigued! It ended up being almost nothing like Vampire Knight, though, and I was pleasantly surprised at how unique the story was.

I usually despise love triangles, but this one wasn't bad at all. I gotta hand it to Phoenix, she stuck with her decision. It was never really a competition for her. And who wouldn't love being surrounded by two important and sexy men?

Demitri. Cold, distant, aloof. Sexy. A buttface most of the time, but has a protective streak for Phoenix. And did I mention he's sexy?

Luka. Arrogant yet playful and carefree. Tortured past. Sexy. I'm not a fan of blondes, but I must say I'm team Luka all the way!! His infatuation with Phoenix was rather sudden, but his commandeered kisses had my heart beating faster! I'd be his *villyat* any day ;D

So why isn't it 4 or 5 stars? Well, the problem I had with Taste was that I simply couldn't connect to the story. I felt a bit detached and emotionless as things were happening. Also, I didn't care much for Phoenix most of the time - she kind of annoyed me. It seemed like she overreacted a lot and she was a bit childish and whiny.

**Favorite character:** LUKA, DUDE.

### ASSESSMENT

**Plot:** 3/5

**Originality:** 5/5

**Writing style:** 4/5

**Characters:** 3/5

All 3 starfish go to Luka ♥

**World-building:** 3/5

**Pace:** 4/5

**Cover:** 4/5

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**Glass says**

\*\*\*NOTE! Review & GIVEAWAY posted on blog Ja ?itam, a ti?.

## **What we thought about it...**

### Storyline

{Glass} Interesting plot. I had my share of doubts first time I heard about this book. It reminded me too much of manga/anime The Vampire Knight with all that stuff about night and day students, but that's where all similarities end. I liked paranormal elements of the story - zombie-like creatures living hidden in human society, secret kingdoms and two boys on the throne. My biggest problem with Taste was that it felt kind of rushed which left me wondering what did just happen.

{Tanychy} I haven't read that manga/anime therefore I had no idea about night and day students. I was surprised with this book. As some of you may know I rarely read blurbs so every book is a mystery. I also like this zombie-like creatures story, as it's new. I agree with this rushed, yes the story really goes fast and something is happening all the time.

### Characters

{Glass} I seriously wanted to strangle Phoenix sometimes. She doesn't think at all or she thinks too much. Boys... Well I like those boys. Maybe Luka just a tiny bit more. But looking at them generally, all characters are typical for paranormal young adult novel. Nothing surprising over there.

{Tanychy} Huh. Here I had some problems. Yes, the problem is Phoenix, or annoying-girl-strikes-again how I called her. There is huge difference between being bad-ass and annoying character. Phoenix is maybe curious and I would probably be but she is also so impatient and sometimes her actions were just stupid. About boys in this book, Demetri is typical kick-ass boy. I know that he will be like that from the beginning, but Luka was really interesting in whole story. I really like Demetri's brother Dray, he is really "normal" and great character.

### Love story

{Glass} Love triangle... Duh, I so didn't see that coming.:) I understand that girl can be totally swept off her feet when she finds out that not just one but two boys are having hots for her. And they are drop dead gorgeous. But when it's pushed too much in the first plan of the story it could be annoying.

{Tanychy} What to say about love story. It was predictable. I expected love triangle from the beginning and I most certainly got one. You enjoyed in some moments between characters. Demetri is perfect gentleman and I like him for that. He cares about Phoenix, but also does Luka. I expected that the end will be like this and I'm happy for that.

### What we liked

{Glass} Honestly, I thought that I'll hate this book. But I don't. All the paranormal elements are original - combination of zombies and scientific explanations was really good move. And that scene where Phoenix meets Luka for the first time... Dear God! Awesome.

{Tanychy} So all in all I like the concept of the story generally. I haven't read much stories about zombies, especially about hot zombies like those in the book. So that all was interesting and new for me. Besides Dray I also like Demetri and Luka. I must add the end, I like the ending. Call me lame, but this type of the end is my favourite. What can I say, hopeless romantic till the end.

### What we didn't like

{Glass} Unlike my hopelessly romantic BFF Tanja, I did not like the ending. If there's going to be second book, it should have ended differently. Other thing I didn't like - all those stuff about kingdom - too much medievalish for my taste.

{Tanychy} You're right, but I didn't know there should be book 2. I didn't like Phoenix for sure. I've seen worst than her, but still I can't get over with that. Another thing is that story was too rushed. There is still enough space to write about zombies and their future, but love story here is as far as I'm concerned completed. I wouldn't touch that.

{Dimitri, night students (but unlike Vampire Knight they are not vampires - they are *flesh eaters*)...love triangle... annoying female character... Again???

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## **Eunice says**

### **3.75 stars**

Well, this book was a pleasant surprise for me. I wasn't expecting that much on this one and to be honest I had some doubt I'd end up really enjoying it. But I'm pleased to report that this book is actually a very interesting one. It might not have instantly caught my interest during the first parts but as I went deeper to the story I realized that it had eventually intrigued me. The characters and the world Kat created were indeed a very unique and fantastic and I'm happy to say that I enjoyed reading this book.

I first thought this was a vampire book thus explaining my doubt. I was surprised when the world was finally described and explained that I realized how interesting and fascinating it was. It wasn't really a vampire world but a world of "Zhyamvys" or "zombies" as we humans, according to the book, bastardized it. It was rather a fascinating idea - good looking zombies, smart and civilized than just the brain eater we always thought of. It was quite captivating and absorbing to explore this unique world Kat created.

Phoenix, our main character discovered the existence of the Zhamvys when she accidentally overslept in the library of her school past the curfew. Her curiosity still brought her to discover more of the world of Zhamvy and soon found herself helping some of them in this dangerous secret that might kill this ancient civilization that lived underneath her school. I didn't get well with Phoenix right away. I was actually pretty annoyed with her and some of her actions. Her curiosity I understand but she was impatient and reckless and although those could be appealing attributes on some characters, it felt quite annoying on her. Although as the story went on I saw parts of her that is good and kind and impressive, like when she agreed to help Dray to look for a cure for his people because she understood how it felt not to be able to do anything to someone you love. She agreed even if it was dangerous and did extreme sacrifices. In the end, I think she did grow on me.

Now onto the other main character and the love interest, Dimitri. Well, there's a reason why I still haven't read Vampire Academy, Wanderlove and why I didn't continue the Faeriewalker series.

Long-haired guys.

I know, I know. Shallow it is. Don't get angry at me but they were just never my type and it turns me off quite majorly whenever I encounter one. However, after reading this I realized that it wasn't really that hard to imagine them to be short-haired. Lol! Seriously, that's the only way I know how I'll be able to continue

reading this and still really like it. So in the end, I was actually able to like Demitri genuinely. And yes, I also did think he was sexy.

Although I liked the overall, I was a little disappointed with the ending. It felt kinda rush, even some other parts of the book but it was the ending that I wish had been elaborated more. Nonetheless, I think this is a pretty great debut novel and really fantastic for a one-shot paranormal book albeit a little formulaic and predictable at times. I wouldn't mind if there will be a second book actually (or a companion book about Luca). I enjoyed this and I guess it's pretty safe to recommend this.

*Thank you Kat Evangelista for providing me a copy of this book!*

This review is also posted at Book Overdose

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## **Tiffany says**

*I accepted a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.*

**"Phoenix." Dray pinched my arm. "Ow!" I scowled at him. "What was that for?" "Stop ogling my brother and pay attention."**

I absolutely fell in love with this book. Kate makes 'zombies' sexy. Gone are the decaying, mindless shufflers hell bent on eating brains.

The story Kate has spun kept me reading page after page without taking a break. I just had to know what would happen next. Phoenix is a likable main character who is smart and loyal and I was rooting for everything to work out for her in the end. I'll admit, Kate had me nervous but in the end I got my happily ever after... with the possibility of new troubles... which will hopefully be in a sequel? Please? I ~~want~~ NEED more of Dimitri and Luka. Speaking of..holy love triangle. Seriously, I could not choose between the two. Both were perfect in their own ways and I'm still not sure which I liked more.

If you like young adult paranormal novels then I highly recommend this one. Kate has left me craving more of her writing.

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## **Edrillan (vampire junkie) says**

Let me just start this review by saying THIS BOOK ROCKS!!!

I so love this one....to be totally honest I really liked its plot from the first time I saw it so I've been waiting for this ever since..but a little part of me is afraid cause that time all the books I've read is either the plot is too much it became boring or the plot is good but the book is not.... and I really really don't want to ruin my good views in this book.....but still I tried and I'm so glad I did. the story started from the very first page no more shenanigans just straight to the very point so it doesn't become boring and still left me wanting to turn the page faster and faster but still savor the happenings I love PHEONIX she's not like any other heroine cause even though she has two hot guys at her beck and call she doesn't drool over them both although she has some slight feelings for LUKA she still know whom she really truly love and sadly that's DEMETRI..(sorry guys but I'm team LUKA )(but hey I don't have an issue with the other guy...he's still hot



you know)

and the two guys oh how can I even start with them...(sigh) they're just so damn irresistible and total opposite...the other is serious and gloomy (ok not that gloomy but a little) and of course my beloved LUKA the easy outgoing

mischievous type I thought when I first read about DEMETRI I will surely love him but oh I was very very wrong cause when LUKA was introduced I forgot all coherent thoughts and my mind went blank.....totally blank nothing else but the name LUKA etched in my mind and I started tearing pages where he's not there (okay not really but close) I just so love him.....and my heart ache for him everytime PHEONIX went into DEMETRI'S arms instead of his.....(sob)....

But nonetheless I was engrossed in every page of this book and I love how the author managed to add some Filipino touch in it just like the kikaron which is called chicharon in the Philippines and I presume its the same.

I just love authors like KATE ....and her idea of the book is unique...ZOMBIE that rots I would probably expect

but ZHAMVY that looks like Gods and Goddesses, no I will definitely not be able to think of that ....

Actually when I read the plot I really thought It was about vampires but KATE wanted to have her very own creatures and it was brilliant....My only complaint in this book is that it isn't a series which I so so so wish it was.....cause really I'd love

to see more of them particularly LUKA....

but I'm sure you will truly love it guys this one book will surely rock your world!!!!

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## **Kazhy (My Library in the Making) says**

Actual rating: 4.5

(This review was originally posted at My Library in the Making.)

When I get curious about something, the saying "curiosity killed the cat" always pops into my head for some reason. But curiosity is a hunger that will demand to be sated until it is, and like what happens to me almost always, it leads to a fascinating discovery for the heroine in Taste, Phoenix.

At first, Phoenix seemed like a girl who didn't care about anything. She didn't know it, but I felt like she lived her days like she was without purpose—until she broke curfew, of course. That event kicked off the story and truly plunged Phoenix into the world of breathtakingly beautiful flesh eaters. She made a brave and selfless decision right at the start and gave her best to go through with everything that came with that decision, and I really admired her for that.

But Phoenix couldn't have guessed that getting her heart ripped in half by two very different but equally, um, pleasing-to-the-eye males would come with that decision. First was Demetri, Phoenix's constant savior who preferred to keep the truths about him hidden. Because of something—I'd never guessed this part, so I'll keep it that way for you all—his effort to avoid her became useless, and with Phoenix more than attracted to him, a hot romance ensued right off the bat. Insta-love came to mind, but I soon understood that it was far from that.

Which was much to the dismay of Luka, the third side of the triangle. So unlike Demetri, he answered as much of Phoenix's questions as he could. He was naughty and nice, but like our first guy, he had his own

secrets and the most share of emotional baggage. And as was the case with love triangles in other books, I loved Luka more than our protagonist's chosen guy. Phoenix can keep her hands on Demetri, though, because Luka's mine \*evil laugh\*.

Although Phoenix's dive into these guys' world changed her for the better, it showed her true self in the process. Her attitude was often inconsistent: headstrong and bad-ass one minute, nothing but lovesick the next. That irritated me more than her bouts of acting like a spoiled kid that always put her—and worse, those around her—in undesirable situations.

But aside from my few problems with Phoenix, I had no other complaints throughout this book. Kate wrote a wonderful and creative world of flesh eaters, spun it with so much action and high stakes, and balanced everything with the right amount of butterfly-inducing romance that the ending brought me to tears, but you'd have to read *Taste* to find out if they were happy tears or not.

MY FAVORITE PART was the catfight. It was childish of Phoenix to start it, but it was really entertaining, lol.

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### **Booknut says**

Who knew zombies could be...*hot*?!

And I certainly do not mean body temperature ;)

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### **Gianne says**

Overall rating: 2.5 stars

Um. Hm. I'm at a loss for words (and it's not the good kind).

### **WHAT I LIKED:**

#### **Taste actually had a unique paranormal twist!**

I come into this book expecting vampires galore, but I was completely wrong! (And so far off...) I love it when books surprise me like this, and this twist was pretty refreshing to read about than the usual angels, werewolves, etc.

#### **The world building = original.**

I can't go too into depth about the world building or else I'll spoil said paranormal twist, but I'm just going to say it was really cool. I loved reading about the world Evangelista created. It was addicting, and it made me crave for more!

I really also liked the terms in this book! It seemed Russian inspired, and just really awesome. (I might be wrong about the Russian inspiration part though.)

### **WHAT I DIDN'T LIKE:**

#### **Phoenix McKay, please put a sock in it.**

If you don't get my saying, it's basically "shut up". Good Lord, this girl whined for days and days and days on end about her past. Half of her dialogue was filled with inane, stupid questions and much much sniffing.

And that whole "I need to put up an armor so no one can get close to me" kind of thing? Yeah, I've seen too much of that already. I understand that her past was heartbreaking (and it was a bit for me), but she needs to live her life and move on.

#### **Oh joy, there's two dimensional characters! \*sarcasm intended\***

The cast of Taste completely fell flat for me. There was hardly any character development with the main cast and it just didn't work for me. They all were extremely simple and easy to figure out, which is not my cup of tea.

#### **Show, don't tell!**

Remember how I said Phoenix was just filled with all these questions? Yeah, a good majority of them was asking to explain this new world she was in, and lo and behold, the answer was... that's right, you guessed it: information dumping!

Instead of the information dumping, I really wished she showed more of the world instead of through words exchanged in conversation. I'm a huge fan of world building in books, and I just felt let down when I was reading this.

#### **The writing was... okay.**

I don't obsess over the writing like I do with world building, but the writing was mediocre at best. It was very simple, and the dialogue between characters didn't feel natural at times.

### **THE VERDICT:**

Taste had a lot of potential but unfortunately, it just didn't live up to it for me.

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**Serena (The Book Comedian) says**

OMG YES YES YESSSSS

Right now I am just a girl, a very happy girl.

I liked this book so much guys so much.

I didn't read the description of this book in much detail before I started reading it so for a good amount of time I thought I was reading a book about vampires (especially when they had characters named Vladimir and Dimitri which sooo reminded me of Vampire Academy) and I was pretty much just as surprised as Phoenix when she found out the truth.

I think a huge part of the reason why I liked this book so much was because it incorporated a lot of things I like in one book: royalty, paranormal fantasy, Victorian clothing, academy/boarding school, angst, and charming boys :)

P.S. let me know if there are any books you guys would recommend that has royalty and is a paranormal fantasy, I love them and they're so hard to come by

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### **Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says**

Quick review:

**Cover:** Very Pretty

**Rating:** PG-13

**Thumbs Up:** 4.5

**Overall:** A story that made me say WoW!

**Characters:** Well done

**Plot:** Falling asleep and waking up in a rabbit hole you don't want to get out of.

**Page Turner:** Yes

**Series Cont.?** N/A

**Recommend:** Yes

**Book Boyfriend:** Dimitri

### **SUMMARY** (60 words or less)

When I saw the name Dimitri followed by boarding school, I thought VA and I got nervous. Let's just say, you won't be thinking of that series for very long. My only complaint about this book is that it ends and there doesn't appear to be a series to follow.

To see my full review and likeness of my book boyfriend, check out my blog post.

<http://mybookboyfriend.blogspot.com/2...>

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## **Katrina says**

Phoenix McKay finds out why curfew is at sunset at Barinkoff Academy, there's only one rule: no students on campus after curfew. Here Phoenix finds a group of students walking the halls and finds herself in a predicament. They threaten to taste her flesh - - until along comes Demitri – he is handsome and alluring. Pale skinned, dark eyes and hair and Phoenix find that she not only is mesmerized by his aura but his irresistible demeanour. \*\* he is her knight in shining armour so to speak \*\* swoon -

However Luka has other plans for Phoenix, he is charming and sexy – and full of mischief. Luka takes Phoenix into a world that she never knew existed. Phoenix is caught between a deadly secret she wants to find out about, her attraction to these mysterious boys and an ancient civilisation living beneath Barinkoff Academy. She maybe the cure to their very existence.

Drays means well, asking Phoenix for her help but in the meantime , the reason for her being there may just be the fuel that Vladimir needs to fuel them into a centuries old feud.

My thoughts!!!

Wow!!! I devoured this story in almost one sitting. Kate has a winner with this Novel - certainly an intriguing and mysterious story filled with its own unique plot and storyline. Kate has created a world of her own - incomparable with any story currently shelved atm - and certainly unmatched by any other. A different spin off on a Flesh eating race. As gory as it sounds, it certainly is not put forth this way. Characters that will draw you into the pages and a read you will find you won't be able to put down.

Kate has created her characters with depth and definition – loyalty and courage. Phoenix I found to be an enjoyable character, very likeable by all means.

The chemistry between Demitri and Phoenix will make your heart flutter - and have you sheepishly grinning at the same time. At times I wanted to sock him one - but other times wanted to just melt into his cotton shirt .. \*\* sigh -\*\*

Luka is sinfully sexy in his own way - he is honest and straight forward .. I was certainly torn between these two boys !

The hotties that Kate has thrown in to give us a love trio are smoking hot and definably hard to choose upon. All the characters that Kate has put forth are well defined and put forth in this story giving it depth and certainly character to the storyline. I must say even the evil was depicted exactly that!

A few twists and turns are thrown in giving the reader a wahhoooooooooooo!! Ending ... that will not only have your heart aflutter but your eyes sparkling with \*\*\*\*\* An ending that is unpredictable where the reader is hoping there just maybe another continuous on from this one. Certainly not needed as Kate has wrapped the story up beautifully.

The storyline alone was certainly mesmerizing – who would think someone could turn flesh eating creatures into such an in-depth read that will keep you hooked till the last page has been turned. \*\* You must read to understand \*\* But this is certainly not your normal flesh eating blood and gore story you will be amazed at what Kate has created!! A world of the Zhamuy – an ancient feud – and possibly a secret that will cause all to cease to exist...

Smooth flowing dialogue and chapters that flow from one to the next and a read that will certainly have you in awe.

Action, adventure, suspense , romance, intrigue, fantasy, lies, friendships ,loyalty, secrets and even heart felt moments are all contained within this story ! A must read Ya story recommended to all.

Pst - dont you just love the cover !!!! I do !!

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## **RaiRaiKen says**

An ecopy of Taste was given to me by Kate Evangelista for an honest review.

Well, I am not yet done reading, and that is a big, BIG sign for me. If I am very slow on reading a book it just means that it has not grabbed my attention. Why do I find Taste not interesting?

- 1.) Writing style. I am not a fan of the style used. It's way too flowery, too here and there, and just dull.
- 2.) Characters. Mary Sue-ish, cardboard-ish characters! Oh, they just make me want to stop reading Taste!
- 3.) Romance. Uh-huh, I don't have to be a psychic to know what's going to happen and who she is going to end up with. It's already on the first chapter!
- 4.) Info dump. The characters spill every little secret until no mystery is left. Great. Thanks for building the suspense and just end up telling us all in one conversation what the book is all about.

So if I do not finish reading Taste, then it just really means that I no longer have the time to waste reading it and that I would rather forget what I just read.

## **UPDATE**

I have read it and I am still not happy with Taste. It was draggy and (to be honest) I had to skip some parts and had to FORCE myself to continue reading it, even though I knew there were other books I would rather want to read. There were funny moments but Phoenix was just annoying that I forgot to laugh. By the way, Phoenix isn't slightly annoying. She is very, VERY annoying and nosy and I would have punched her face!

I am disappointed with this novel >:(

I did not enjoy it one bit. Writing style, characters, and plot all rated as a 3/10.

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