

Arranged Monster Mates

In the epilogue titled "Six Months Later," the protagonist reflects on the significant changes in his life since marrying Teal, who is pregnant with their first child. He admires her beauty, noticing her physical transformation and feeling a deep sense of joy and fulfillment he had not previously experienced. Before meeting Teal, he felt aimless, observing his brothers with their families and doubting his own capacity for such commitment. However, Teal's love has enlightened him to the values of devotion and happiness.

The scene unfolds in their home, where Teal is attempting to knit a baby jumper, a hobby she picked up from Holly. Despite her determination, her experience is tinged with stress due to pregnancy complications. The first trimester has proven challenging, marked by morning sickness and selective eating habits. The husband is devoted to caring for her, cooking multiple dishes in hopes she will eat something, demonstrating his commitment to her well-being.

He plans to encourage Teal to find relaxation through activities like painting or writing since knitting isn't yielding the desired calm. They share a strong bond, with daily walks to their cherished Thundering Caves, symbolizing his desire for proximity and connection with her. This companionship is vital for him, as he acknowledges how essential she has become in his life.

Teal expresses frustration with her knitting skills, and while the husband holds back laughter, he assures her that he will provide for their baby. Their playful banter highlights their intimacy and the affection they share, despite the physical toll the pregnancy takes on Teal, making her sweat and feel exhausted. She appreciates his willingness to care for her and recognizes the shift in her lifestyle, having come from a background of hardship and responsibility in her family.

As they sit together on the porch under the stars, they acknowledge how their lives have transformed. The protagonist feels responsible for Teal's past and is determined to show her his love and support. Their bond solidifies as he kisses her hand, and he embraces his role as both a devoted husband and soon-to-be father, feeling honored to fulfill this purpose. The chapter closes with a sense of hope, love, and an eagerness for their family's future.