



Reluctant Mate

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Protecting his family's future meant taking a mate, but he never counted on his mate being another man.

When Gray's father informs him he needs to take a mate, he has no problem with it. He'd been thinking it was time to find a permanent partner to bond with. An alliance with one of the most influential wolf shifter families in New Orleans was a good move to protect his people if ever their secret existence was revealed. However, when his father told him he'd have to mate with the head of the Cain family, Gray drew the line. He would not under any circumstances ever mate with a man!

Reluctant Mate Details

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From Reader Review Reluctant Mate for online ebook

Suzan says

I enjoyed this, it was a short book and usually with MM at least one of the romantic leads knows he's gay and has known for some time but in this instance neither knew they were gay (or bi as the case may have been) as they'd each only ever been with or been attracted to females before meeting.

Even their meeting wasn't a romantic one, they were being paired by their families cause one had the wealth and the other the political influence so Gray's father decided Gray had to mate with Lucas so they could have Lucas' families political influence on their side while Lucas's family had lost all their wealth because of his uncle and were in danger of losing everything so they needed Gray's families wealth.

Neither one expected to actually fall for each other and be mates, hence the title as both were initially loathe to admit they could be attracted to each other and somewhat embarrassed by their reactions to each other. It was a quick read but I'd recommend it!

pbj says

All of the clichés and none of the romance.

This is one of those books whose characters are so vaguely drawn as to be indistinguishable from each other. Every other page I had to stop and try to remember which guy is the rich one, and after a while I stopped caring that I couldn't tell the difference between them.

Not horrible, but absolutely one of those books where when the MC's declare their love for each other you just ask 'why'?

Morgana says

Okay, first thing first. This book could use some serious editing. As for the plot, two straight guys having sex to prove they can't mate is just ridiculous. I caught myself shaking my head and muttering REALLY? definitely too many times. Still, I kept reading, so that should count for something, I think. And since I'm feeling generous today, I'm rating this 2 stars. Though frankly, it's more like 1.5 - 1.75 stars *shrugs*

Mona says

I'll admit to being quite surprised by this one. Its actually a really interesting read, with great characters and plenty of smexy scenes, that were pretty HOT for two straight guys lol

Tj says

The beginning of the story started off pretty well even with a well used plot line. The build up was working but I felt like the story got rushed into an ending too quickly. The story needed more length and drama to make it work as it is it falls a little flat.

Hc says

[not that they were 'forced' to try to mate but that they overcame the blowoff of Gray to 'pretend' together and still hook up with females. They go on a 'honeymoon' and Lucas gets jealous of Gray and some female going off in the woods and then, BAMM they both realize they love each other and all is forgiven.. (hide spoiler)]

JustBooks says

Too much sex.

Sagajo says

Instant noodles.

Ana_P says

I like crack.
Good thing though.
'Cause this book was pure crack.

Ok, so, you have two guys who are completely straight (Double GFY FTW!) are forced into bonding for different reasons...

who then decide to try to sleep together to prove to Gray's father that there is no way that neither will ever like smexin' it up with a man.

Their first few times in bed end up feeling like extreme gay chicken where each tries to outdo the other.

And then they decide they will proceed with the mating ceremony because both are starting to have

but agree that they will pick up women together because that is what they think the other wants. However, surprise, surprise (or not...) they get jealous when a woman shows interest...

and confess that they are in love.

And this, of course, happened in the span of a week.

Like I said, this was a quick, fun read of smutty-goodness crack that I just rolled with and enjoyed.

Lasha says

3.75 stars

After glancing back at all my reviews here, it seems a good majority of the books I read have vampires or werewolves in them. Well, *Reluctant Mate* will not be the exception. This time it's wolf shifters!

Set in New Orleans, Gray is ordered by his wealthy father to take a mate. Reluctantly Gray agrees, figuring it will be some social butterfly with more family money than sense, but is utterly surprised when his father tells him he's going to bond with a man to tie their two socially prominent families together! To say Gray is unhappy is an understatement. He's not gay, has no desire to be with a man and tells his father so. His father ignores him and Gray leaves wondering how he can fulfill his duty to his family line if he's all but married to a guy.

Enter Lucas Cain, Gray's future mate. Lucas, on the other hand, has no say in whether he can turn down Gray's father's offer. He can't. With the entire Cain family depending on him to pull them out of poverty and save their ancestral home, Lucas has no choice. However, he's determined not to be some 'quivering virginal bride' on his wedding night, so he seeks out Gray to see if they could be compatible. Here's where the plot gets interesting and takes the werewolf bonding trope and twists it all up. There is no Instant-Love or immediate bonding. Yes, Gray and Lucas have sex, just to see if they could do it at all, after all they are both straight men, right? And the sex? Nothing Earth shattering.

Yep, you read that right. No bells, whistles or falling in love declarations after their first time together. The sex doesn't suck, but moonbeams don't go off either. Gray thinks he's find an out of their "arranged marriage," as he tells his father that Lucas and he are not compatible *in the sack*. Is Gray off the hook? Absolutely not. Dad is too crafty for that. He tells Gray they need more practice! At that pronouncement, I was won over.

The rest of the book is Gray and Lucas "practicing" and coming to terms with their impending bonding.

First, I enjoyed the fact that *Reluctant Mate* tried something different than the usual bonding/mating/love-you-forever-the-instant-we-hook-up plot. Gray and Lucas have to work on their relationship, inside the bedroom and outside. Second, wolf shifters, first times and arranged marriage are favorite tropes of mine...so that had me right there. My big niggle, and the reason why I did not rate this novella higher, was the ending. It felt rushed and a tad bit clichéd. Everything up to that point was different than the usual tropes, but the end sort of went back to the typical werewolf bonding stories that you'd expect and I was disappointed since the first half of the novel bucked those clichés.

So, recommended, with provisions.

Reviews by Jessewave

Chris says

1.5 stars. So-so short paranormal m/m romance about a wolf shifter who's pissed off that his father has arranged for him to mate a man instead of a woman.

Betzacosta Betzacosta says

Por este libro conseguí otra autora. QUIERO leer todos sus libros y que no quede ninguno por fuera. Ame la historia, que fue corto, y la idea

LaShonta says

I guess I should've known better. Eden Cole has been hit or miss for me. More miss than hit especially after her last shifter series.

What did I like? Nothing.

What didn't I like? Everything.

There was a prologue that didn't have to be one. It could've been the first couple of paragraphs of the first chapter. It didn't feel right. The reasoning behind what Gray's father suggested I guess I can see, but not so much. Gray had no backbone. Always showing up late to piss off your father does not make a backbone. Gray didn't want to mate but did it out of family pressure from his dad.

What pissed me off about this is the first time Lucas and Gray meet. They go off and talk and Gray is trying to tell him why he feels the way he does. Mind you, Gray doesn't know who he is but Lucas knows who Gray is. Lucas sets out automatically to convince Gray to do this with no thought of how Gray would feel. I understand his reasoning but it still does not justify his actions.

Gray kept telling him throughout the story he wanted a female mate. So what does Lucas do? (view spoiler)

There were several things missing in the story. You know what the biggest one was? CHEMISTRY!!!!!! The MCs did not have it at all. So when Gray tells Lucas he loves him I rolled my eyes and said WTF? How?

After this, I've decided to leave Eden Cole books alone. Why waste my money on a bunch of misses.

Keep in mind, this is all my opinion. If you like Eden Cole's stories go for it. You might like it. I, on the other hand didn't.

Ursula says

You get shit, then you get the amount of story development in this book!

Mara says

I'm not at all fond of stories that use m/m sex simply as a titillating trick for salivating fans. I guess I can't stop thinking that, even nowadays, being gays is pretty difficult. You don't change into being one all of a sudden. In my opinion this kind of plot is demeaning.
