



The Trouble With Fate

Leigh Evans

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Meet Hedi Peacock. She's half Fae. Half Were. And all trouble...

I Have Two Words For Werewolves:

My name is Hedi Peacock and I have a secret. I'm not human, and I have the pointy Fae ears and Were inner-bitch to prove it. As fairy tales go, my childhood was damn near perfect, all fur and magic until a werewolf killed my father and the Fae executed my mother. I've never forgiven either side. Especially Robson Trowbridge. He was a part-time werewolf, a full-time bastard, and the first and only boy I ever loved. That is, until he became the prime suspect in my father's death...

Bite Me.

Today I'm a half-breed barista working at a fancy coffee house, living with my loopy Aunt Lou and a temperamental amulet named Merry, and wondering where in the world I'm going in life. A pretty normal existence, considering. But when a pack of Weres decides to kidnap my aunt and force me to steal *another* amulet, the only one who can help me is the last person I ever thought I'd turn to: Robson Trowbridge. And he's as annoyingly beautiful as I remember. That's the trouble with fate: Sometimes it barks. Other times it bites. And the rest of the time it just breaks your heart. Again...

The Trouble With Fate Details

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From Reader Review The Trouble With Fate for online ebook

Mandy says

I picked up The Trouble With Fate for two reasons it works for a challenge I'm doing on Goodreads & what can I say other then I love the idea of a werewolf/fae. Hedi is not human she's half werewolf and fae she had the perfect fairy tale childhood until the night her father is murdered, her mother executed and her twin brother taken to the fae realm. Her only choice after being left in the fire by the werewolves is into hiding with her aunt Lou. After ten long years she's working as a coffee barista when that last person she expects to see walks in.

Ten years ago Hedi had a crush on Robson Trowbridge when he walks into her coffee shop her life starts to spiral out of control. Suddenly her Aunt Lou has been kidnapped by were's demanding the amulet that Trowbridge wears around his neck. At least Hedi won't have to go it alone she has her own amulet Merry to help her out. When she fails to steal the amulet she creates an unlikely friendship with Trowbridge learning that there is more to him than just a hunky were. With his help saving her aunt she will risk more than just her life, she will risk her heart.

I've been waiting for a werewolf/fae character for so long that Hedi had really big shoes to fill. Hedi exceeds my expectations she's stubborn, loyal, and overall kick-ass which is my ideal urban fantasy character. Plus she was a coffee barista what's not to love, I only wish the local shop had a half-breed barista I'd be their every day. I like the chemistry between Hedi and Trowbridge it's an intense connection that starts out more hate but turns to love. I love the protective werewolf; Hedi needs someone who is strong and willing to fight to the death to save her life.

The concept of the Mystwalker is unique and exciting. The Trouble With Fate captivated me right I was instantly drawn into Hedi's world right till the end. The storyline is filled with action, mystery, romance and a little coffee shop drama. I love the idea of the werewolves and Fae being at war but her parent's still found a way. I love the idea that she gets to see how Trowbridge turned out after 10 years, she even steals his heart now that she's grown up. She's not your typical perfect body girl either which I felt makes her more real. The way the author creates Hedi's fae and inner were is a perfect mix of the two, playing on both strengths and weakness. I love the story it was easy for me to get lost and lose track of time. I really loved the story and the characters they left me breathless. I can't wait to start the next book; I know another sleepless night is around the corner. One of my new favorite urban fantasy series.

Lynsey (A Bookish Life) says

Joint read/review with Janice.

What a fun read!

This was great, fun, sexy Urban Fantasy. Hedi's voice was immediately engaging as a protagonist, and you got the sense that she was talking directly to *you*, which I thought was great. It had some standard UF fare with the werewolves and Fae taking centre stage, but it definitely managed to put its own spin on even those regular staples of the genre.

And also some great new ideas as well. There were plenty of interesting plot developments and action to keep the reader glued throughout, and there was even quite a substantial amount of romance in there too! This was actually my only slight problem area. Not that I didn't like the romance - I did. I just felt at times it was moving too fast for me to keep up with. But then, I'm one of those strange people who doesn't mind being made to wait several books for a romance to form, especially in my Urban Fantasy series. I'm sure other people will be more than happy having things moving as quickly as they do.

I'm definitely going to be reading the next one as I liked the world building, the characters and the plot twists despite my minor issues with the romance. Can't wait to see how things pan out in book two: *The Thing About Weres*, when it releases in July 2013.

Darynda Jones says

What a delicious read!!!

Silver James says

The Trouble With Fate broke my heart. And left me wishing on a star. This is a book where the fae aren't sparkly and the weres are dark and dangerous. This is a book where a child finally has to face growing up, when a woman finally rediscovers her heart and her honor. I wish I didn't have to wait until July to find out what happens next. Kudos to Leigh Evans on an outstanding debut. The writing is starkly lyrical, the emotions gut-wrenchingly pure. This book is faerie gold. Warning, though. Don't start reading thinking you'll get the whole fairy tale by the last page. Just FYI.

I originally checked this book out from the library. I've now ordered a copy for my keeper shelf, and preordered the next one to come.

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy

THE TROUBLE WITH FATE sort of snuck up on me with how good it was. The cover didn't wow me, and the first couple chapters are a little slow. But, after the underwhelming start, this story—and more importantly the characters—completely won me over and made the first book in the Mystwalker series one of my favorite urban fantasy titles of the year.

The combustible and intense exchanges between Heidi and Trowbridge were fraught with sexual tension. Heidi had been nursing a crush on Trowbridge since she was a little girl, whereas he was much older and hardly aware of her. When they meet again after Heidi is an adult, events on both side have drastically altered both of their opinions of the other. Heidi has become a thief without any moral hangups about it. Her practical almost to a fault view of life was so entertaining and often at odds with the emotions she tries to suppress. Trowbridge, on the other hand, has been a rogue wolf for so many years that he's mostly sharp edges and plenty of bark. The other character that really surprised me by being so 'human' was Heidi's amulet, Merry. She never speaks, but Evans imbued her with so much personality and emotion, that her

story-line was the one that ended up breaking my heart.

The character interactions are what I loved the most about THE TROUBLE WITH FATE, but the fae and werewolf infused world was also extremely well done. There is a long and volatile history between these two groups, and we are only scratching the surface of numerous interesting concepts related to them, like the sentient pendants. THE TROUBLE WITH FATE may not have started out with a bang, but it sure ended with one. The Mystwalker series has a lot more in store for us based on this debut, so I'm anxiously awaiting more when THE THING ABOUT WERES is released on July 30, 2013.

Sexual Content:

A mild sex scene. Scenes of sensuality.

Yodamom says

4.5 stars

It all started with a day dream, a blue eyed hunk and boob grabbing stone.

Heidi, was just trying to make it through the day and not get fired when the dreams came. If that wasn't bad enough, he walked in the door to her coffee shop. All her control slipped, her memories warred between hate and love. This was only the beginning of her storm to come. She will be dragged into a fight they never wanted any part of. She is betrayed, heartbroken, beaten, and yet there is so much hope and *ding dong* some happiness to be found. She is half Fae, half Were, not excepted by either. Stuck in the middle of the two worlds, a spilt person. Her family was murdered, her twin taken away and her only family is a crazy Fae Aunt who seems to be drifting near death. She is basically alone.

Bridge, a rouge were, son of the pack alpha has been hiding away. He just wants to forget the death of his wife, killed the same night as Heidi's family. He is seen by Heidi but does not recognize her. Something is up and he's trying to find out what while staying under the radar of the new pack leader. He grieves his mate and does not understand why he lived after she died. He wants to know the identity of the wolf that killed his family. He is in for a shock when he finds Heidi in his bed stealing his amulet after a kiss and cuddle session he thought he dreamed.

Then it all begins, everything hits the fan. Backstabbing, lying, death, truths and much more than any of them have time to prepare for. Their story is not an easy breezy love story. It get's dark, twisted, oh so painful. It also is sexy, sweet, funny and exciting. It is one of those 'forget sleeping" reads, you just have to read one more page.....then BAM it ended with me sniffling at one huge cliffhanger.

I am addicted, and NEED to read book 2.

Another go to author.

Reeka (BoundbyWords) says

As seen on my blog:

This book was a breathe of paranormal FRESH AIR. I have read an ENDLESS amount of the genre in the

last few months, and to be honest, it all started swirling into a collective, repetitive, blur. This book broke the mold for me. It was action packed in JUST the right places, and with just the right amount of words.

I fell into INSTA-LOVE with the main character, Hedi Peacock. I loved her snaky attitude, I LOVED her wit, I absolutely fell for everything she held true and dear. She is definitely in my top 10 favourite female characters. I also appreciated that she wasn't your typical, toothpick thin, female protagonist that seems to populate books these days.

Robson Trowbridge, the male protagonist, was also SO amazingly written. His presence in the book added so much more to the experience. The interaction between him and Hedi was endlessly entertaining, and I pretty much couldn't turn the pages fast enough to get to their back and forth dialogue. He's a Were, but not your typical, brooding, "hear me roar" type.

Merry..OH my sweet Merry. I think she had to be my ultimate favourite "character" of the book. It was such a unique idea, and I applaud the author for the intricacies of her existence, and her relationship and importance to Hedi. She was her healer, her friend, and all while being teeny tiny, and a hanging fairy amulet from her neck.

Quick moving, and not ONE dull moment. This book had me anticipating every characters next moves-how they would react to confessions, and new developments. I ESPECIALLY loved the scene in the beginning when Hedi unleashes her pent up anger for Robson, and the fact that she believed he abandoned her many years back-UGH..my HEART.

I definitely recommend this book to fans of the paranormal, but who also enjoy a whole lot of wit and humour as a side course. Leigh Evans is officially one of my new favourites, and I can't WAIT until the next books are out!!

DISCLAIMER I received this book as an ecopy from the author, in order to participate in the blog tour.

Kerry Schafer says

I fell in love with the main character, Hedi, the minute she appeared on the page. Not that she goes out of the way to make herself lovable, mind you. Here's the thing about Hedi: she's half Fae and half Were. Now, werewolf books in general are not my usual fare, but I've read enough to know that the Fae and the Weres don't exactly love each other. Hedi would be a woman at war with herself under the best of circumstances. And hers are not the best of circumstances. When she was young, her family was murdered. The prime suspect is the first and only boy she's ever loved, Robson Trowbridge.

So yeah. All she's got left is a sentient amulet named Merry with an agenda of her own, and a crazy old aunt who is not only slipping farther and farther into madness, but dragging Hedi along with her. It's no wonder that Hedi has a chip on her shoulder the size of a small country. Inside though, she is vulnerable and passionate and when she loves it is forever.

And that, my friends, is all I'm going to tell you, except that this is a richly layered novel that puts a whole new spin on Paranormal fiction. It's a romance, but with plenty of action for those of us who need that along with the love.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

3.5 stars

With hundreds (yes, hundreds) of urban fantasy books behind me, I really thought I'd seen it all, but a sentient amulet for a sidekick is news even to me. Merry the fae amulet is an endless source of entertainment. She doesn't speak, obviously, but she has ways to express her opinions rather loudly regardless. Most of those ways end up being very painful for poor Hedi. But Merry also has the ability to heal and she uses it to help Hedi whenever it's needed, and in turn, Hedi feeds her and keeps her safe.

Hedi is a somewhat unusual UF protagonist. A half-fae-half werewolf in hiding, she is neither nice nor particularly brave, and she never utters a sentence that isn't rude to at least three people simultaneously. But being privy to her thoughts meant I also got to see the hows and whys of it firsthand, and while none of it made her more likeable, it did at least made me sympathize to a certain extent. At the same time, being inside Hedi's head was often a hilarious experience. Her distinctive, clear-as-bell voice jumps out at the very first page.

If people stayed with proven facts, work environments would be easier. Groundless accusations just stir things up, like the whole "Who hid the turkey breast sandwich behind the milk?" controversy. Did they think I did it? Well, prove it. Maybe I did do it, and maybe if you were an anal retentive asshole who counted cookies and sandwiches, you might feel those were two good reasons to fire your barista. Maybe.

Oh, but the romance in this one is as heartbreakingly tragic as it is unusual. Hedi has been in love with the werewolf Trowbridge for as long as she can remember, but he never returned her feeling. For one, when they knew each other she was only twelve and he was in his late teens, and later she disappeared and he married a girl named Candy. Now Candy is dead, and Hedi and Trowbridge are forced to work together. To make matters worse, there's also the small matter of Hedi's amulet being in love with the Royal Amulet around Trowbridge's neck.

Achieving a life-long dream and getting Trowbridge into bed isn't so hard for Hedi. There's a connection between them and neither of them tries too hard to resist it. But as Trowbridge himself pointed out, he's no prize – after years of hiding, guilt-ridden, drunk and bent on revenge against the weres who killed his family, not much of the old Robson Trowbridge remains. And the memory of his dead wife Candy is always between them.

He waited for me to explode again, and when I didn't, he used two fingers on my forehead to ease me back into my seat. "You are one crazy-ass Tinker Bell," he said, returning his attention to the road.

The Trouble With Fate is full of action and sexual tension, my two favorite things. The ending, I have to admit, took me completely by surprise, and although it's not a cliffhanger at all, it left me pining for the next book.

Michelle says

Brilliant debut novel. Leigh Evans has a strong, distinctive and compelling voice.

Rush out and read this emotionally charged book. You'll feel every challenge felt by the protagonist.

I can't wait to read the next book in the series.

Suzanne McLeod says

I was lucky enough to get an early read of this fab book! Heidi, the heroine is a likeable, light-fingered heroine with smarts; Bridge is a tough, sexy hero with troubles; and there's a glimpse into a fascinating fae world that will have you howling for the next book. I loved it and can't wait for the next one!

Crystal says

This review was first posted at [Reading Between The Wines](#)!

I have a new awesome series to follow! *Doing the book happy cabbage patch* The Trouble With Fate has an excellent jaded and snarky heroine named Heidi. She's half Fae and half Werewolf. Her father was murdered by a fellow werewolf, her mother murdered and twin brother kidnapped by the Fae. So it's needless to say that she doesn't have an overwhelming desire to be in touch with her familial roots. The only people she has left in her life now is her batshit crazy Aunt, who was her Mother's sister, and her amulet necklace, which is actually a very temperamental living object named Merry who likes to burn the crap out of her when it has temper tantrums.

The love of Heidi's life before her world was turned upside down, Robson Trowbridge, is a man/werewolf she's never even kissed because he was her childhood obsession before her family was so brutally taken away from her. When she was twelve, and he was eighteen, he married a girl he went to school with and in essence broke young Heidi's heart. So when she sees him in the coffee shop she works at all of these years later, while she's still on the run and incognito with her crazy Aunt, she doesn't know whether she wants to set him on fire or kiss him. Little does Heidi know that her years of somewhat peaceful existence are now over cause trouble has come to town, and it's looking for her and Robson.

This book is an amazing mix of urban fantasy and romance! Truly an outstanding debut for Leigh Evans, and I'm sitting on pins and needles till I can read the next book in the series because she left us in a hell of a situation at the end of this one! Five wine glass toast all the way, and I know you gals will love it as much as I did! Great read!

Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says

3.5 stars...Love the heroine! Go, Hedi!

Hedi Peacock, equal parts Were and Fae, works as a barista. She supports the only family member – her sickly and unstable Fae aunt - remaining in this world. Life had once been wonderful, with a loving mother mated to an honorable werewolf, a twin brother who was also a best friend, a charming home by a pond, and a dreamy boy to stalk. It was all lost one horrible night ending with a werewolf killing her father; the Fae executing her mother; and the kidnapping of her brother into the Fae realm. This leaves Hedi with a crazy aunt, a moody amulet named Merry, and a dangerous secret Hedi's mother made her promise to never share. The kidnapping of her Aunt Lou leads her to the last man she never thought she would need: the beautiful and washed-up Robson Trowbridge, her stalker-worthy childhood crush. With his help she may save her aunt once she steals an amulet the kidnappers are demanding; an amulet that Trowbridge providentially possesses.

The Trouble with Fate is an enjoyable book. Hedi is not the usual battle-ready and snarky heroine seen in many

urban fantasy and paranormal romance novels. She's frumpy, plain, and awkward. Her heart is achingly tender; yet, when she taps into her Fae powers and releases her *Inner Were Bitch*, Hedi challenges us not to underestimate her. She appears to have a fragility counterbalanced with an unbreakable spirit. She's a paradox. Hedi's resilience, insecurities, and brave heart made me love her!

In this novel, it seems nearly all the characters are flawed. There's a defeated hero, a heroine with kleptomania, a transvestite werewolf, a crazy aunt, and a temperamental amulet, just to name a few. A gripe I have is that I don't have a full grasp of Hedi's love interest. Robson Trowbridge is presented through Hedi's eyes from her memories as a child and adult perspective. He would rather drink at bars than regain what is rightfully his. Dangerous situations with Hedi and his actions inspire me to believe he has potential to be the hero she deserves. There's plenty of mystery shrouding a few characters to have me anxious for the next *Mystwalker* book.

The world-building involves the Fae, werewolves, and the different realms – Earth, Merenwyn, and Threall - available (or not) to each. Threall, third realm and 'the land of mists and bad things,' is the most fascinating. The third realm is a place accessible to *Mystwalkers*, where souls can be destroyed and 'dream walkers' may become 'mad and soulless.' I am intrigued! Most of the story occurs within the Earth realm with a riveting peek into Threall. The next book should reveal more about werewolf pack dynamics and politics, which seem comparable to other fantasy novels involving Weres. Learning more about Fae *Mystwalkers* and their fate amongst their kind will likely lead Hedi down a dark and dangerous road (or portal).

The Trouble with Fate is a Leigh Evan's debut novel. It isn't a light story, but Hedi's voice is very young for a twenty-two year old. Other characters commonly mistake her for a teenager and I sometimes felt like I was reading a new adult novel, making it a challenge to rate in comparison to other urban fantasy series. Although I found the pacing uneven - a few times sluggish - I'm fascinated with the heroine. Will she remain an 'ugly duckling'? Her untapped powers promise to be immense: How will she change the world? When will her heart stop breaking? I want to know!

Future Books in the Series:

The Thing about Weres (*Mystwalkers*, #2) – July 2013
Mystwalkers, #3 – May 2014

Mystwalkers, #4 – n/a

Release Date: December 24, 2012

ARC courtesy of St. Martin's Press via Netgalley

Group read with tree-hugger friends. ;o)

Rabidreading says

September 2013 re-read: New rating 4.5 stars. I loved this book even more the 2nd time around. Looooooooove Trowbridge. He tops the list of my favorite alpha werewolf heroes <3. Can't wait for book 3 next year!!!

December 2012 review:

This was a joint review/buddy read with Lynsey. To see the full review, visit [The Demon Librarian blog](#)

I love books about the Fae, and I can bask in the light of a well-written werewolf story for days. So when I read the synopsis for The Trouble With Fate and learned that the heroine is half-Fae, half-werewolf, I was instantly intrigued.

I enjoyed this book almost from word one. It offers magic, romance, and just enough mayhem to keep things interesting. The world is easy to slide into and the characters are fully developed. I can only think of one, maybe two times the narrative lagged for me, but those were brief blips on the radar and didn't detract from my overall reading experience. Leading lady Hedi is an appealing heroine with a wryly humorous voice, and I was in her court and on her side the entire story. Trowbridge, for his part, is my favorite kind of hero - gruff and reluctant and deliciously layered.

My favorite part of this book, though - and there are many to choose from - is the romance. It seemed to be leading down the usual PNR road, but just as it got there, it veered off, narrowly avoiding a collision with dreaded instalove. It's an unexpected twist that brings its own set of complications to an already complex relationship. Hedi and Trowbridge have a tough road ahead of them, and as a reader, I can't wait to see what happens next.

My rating is:

ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Liz says

The Trouble with Fate: A Mystwalker Novel While I was reading this all I kept thinking was this is not your usual UF novel. It's gritty and messy and full of feelings and the consequences of realizing your destiny. It shows the 'ugly' side of Faerie more than the pretty, the bloody brutality of a Were pack's hierarchy and the painful cost of magic. And it also gives us an unconventional romance which developed in such a fulfilling way, because even though Hedi fancied herself in love with Trowbridge since she was a little girl, being in love with him brings a whole different level of vulnerability and self- sacrifice to her baser natures. I loved it!

Luckily the next book comes out next month because we leave Hedi in quite a tenuous situation. I can't wait to see the consequences play out as what happened at the end of the first part of the story comes to fruition in book two.
