



## Coveted

*Shawntelle Madison*

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## **Coveted** Shawntelle Madison

SOMETIMES WHAT YOU COVET IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP.

For werewolf Natalya Stravinsky, the supernatural is nothing extraordinary. What *does* seem strange is that she's stuck in her hometown of South Toms River, New Jersey, the outcast of her pack, selling antiques to finicky magical creatures. Restless and recovering from her split with gorgeous ex-boyfriend, Thorn, Nat finds comfort in an unusual place: her obsessively collected stash of holiday trinkets. But complications pile up faster than her ornaments when Thorn returns home—and the two discover that the spark between them remains intense.

Before Nat can sort out their relationship, she must face a more immediate and dangerous problem. Her pack is under attack from the savage Long Island werewolves—and Nat is their first target in a turf war. Toss in a handsome wizard vying for her affection, a therapy group for the anxious and enchanted, and the South Toms River pack leader ready to throw her to the wolves, and it's enough to give anybody a panic attack. With the stakes as high as the full moon, Nat must summon all of her strength to save her pack and, ultimately, herself.

## Coveted Details

Date : Published April 24th 2012 by Ballantine Books

ISBN : 9780345529183

Author : Shawntelle Madison

Format : Paperback 291 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Shapeshifters, Werewolves, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Magic

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## From Reader Review Coveted for online ebook

### Ezinwanyi says

My first time reading so many supernaturals AND a werewolf that has OCD. Very interesting. I like Nat, but I was really crossing my fingers for her to get her mental illness under control. I was also hoping that she would fight harder to keep Thorn. Maybe next book.

#### Supernaturals I found in the book

1. tree nymphs
2. mermaids
3. necromancer
4. goblin
5. witch and wizard
6. werewolves
7. Feline shifter (leopard?)
8. Indian deity Raj
9. Harpy
10. Zombie
11. water sprite
12. banshee
13. Fairy folk
14. Brownies
15. Succubus
16. Dwarf
17. Muse
18. elf

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### Christal (Badass Book Reviews) says

*See this review and others like it at [BadassBookReviews.com!](http://BadassBookReviews.com)*

I went into **COVETED** knowing very little about it and I was pleasantly surprised. Shawntelle Madison has created a unique and engaging world that I am excited to learn more about.

Natayla Stravinsky isn't like most UF heroines. Even though she is a werewolf, she is considered useless by her pack and has been kicked out. Nat suffers from extreme OCD and she copes by excessively cleaning and hoarding Christmas ornaments. She is a wounded, flawed character but I enjoyed her spirit and sense of humor. She is really trying to change her life and make it into something she can be happy with.

Ms. Madison has assembled a varied but interesting group of side characters around Nat. Sometimes I really hated her family, but at other times they were great. I loved Aggie, Nat's best friend and housemate. She was spunky and helped keep Nat upbeat, even while she was dealing with her own problems. The therapy group Nat attends was filled with kooky, cool characters such as Tyler the oversized Dwarf, Heidi the water-fearing mermaid, and Abby the muse. They had very small parts in this book, but what they did was show Nat that

she wasn't alone and she did have people that cared about her. The other wolves in the pack weren't really discussed, but the ones we did meet were pretty horrible. I don't know if I would want to rejoin the pack if I had to be with people like them. Hopefully we will see a different side to the pack in the next book to help redeem them and to show why Nat would really want to belong with them after how horrible they treated her.

The two main men in Nat's life are Thorn and Nick. There wasn't really a love triangle her per say, but they are definite possibilities on both fronts. While Thorn is Nat's college love and they have a lot of heat between them, I think I am pulling for underdog Nick. The wizard definitely cares for Nat and has shown that he will do just about anything to protect her. Plus, he is infinitely more available than Thorn at the moment and can relate to her on a different level as he also shares her hoarding tendencies. I think they would be stronger together.

All in all, I think Ms. Madison has crafted a great debut novel. The plot was steadily paced, the characters interesting, the heroine very likable, and just enough threads left loose to make you want the next book **RIGHT NOW!** I will absolutely be checking out her second novel, **KEPT**.

*Thank you to Netgalley and Ballantine Books for providing a review copy of this book!*

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### **Megan says**

Some thoughtful and neat twists on the paranormal world and its inhabitants, but the story is weakly plotted and flatly written, and the romance aspect is unengaging.

I saw an ad for this book on a romance novel blog months ago and clicked on it eagerly simply because of the heroine's attire on the cover: she's wearing a collared, button-down shirt and a pencil skirt. Have you seen what paranormal heroines usually wear on covers? It's all tight leather pants and tank tops and black black black. And, if anything, this tips off the reader that Natalya is not your ordinary paranormal heroine.

The most prominent difference is that Natalya has OCD and it impacts her life, her relationships, and her status as a werewolf. A lot of reviews and blurbs include patronizing claims like calling Natalya lovably quirky or adorably neurotic (seriously? SERIOUSLY?), which made me wary, but I thought the book treated Natalya's OCD with seriousness and didn't play it for laughs or for "cuteness" or to turn Natalya into a victim needing rescuing. Which was awesome. On the other hand, the overeating habits of Aggie, Natalia's best friend who is a werewolf with an eating disorder, were sometimes a subject of amusement, which did make me wince, but on the other hand, Aggie was also treated as more than just her eating habits and portrayed as extremely sympathetic, and the book spends time showing how Aggie and Natalya are actually friends and do care greatly about each other.

Plus, Natalya goes to group therapy for paranormal creatures wrestling with various aspects of mental health, and while I think that thread of the plot culminated in a way that was oversentimental and unbelievable, it was a really neat thing to portray, and the supportive friendships born out of that therapy group were sweet. Lots of kindness and humanity in showing how people (or werewolves, mermaids, wizards, trolls, deities, muses, etc.) can fall through the cracks and how they work hard, really hard, to pull themselves out.

The actual story, however, was frustrating. The worldbuilding and the characters were so neat, but the skeleton underneath, the vehicle of the book, was so listless. :/

First, Natalya's mooning over Thorn came across as pretty pathetic. (I just want to make that clear that when I call her feelings pathetic, I'm not referring to her OCD at all, which years ago was exacerbated by his abandonment of her; it's her current "I loooooove him and he sneaks into my room like a creepy Edward Cullen and makes me feel safe because he does that and I loooooove him but cannot be with him" feelings that I'm rolling my eyes at.) He came across as nothing more than a generic alpha werewolf with ~feeeeelings~ for the ex he wronged. No personality. No humor. Just tons of stated attraction. Bleh. It was desperately difficult to see what Natalya might have seen in him, or to even find him interesting when he showed up on the page. At the same time, the other love interest, fellow group-therapy attendee Nick, had slightly more personality but was also fairly bland. In comparison to all the female characters who show up practically bursting with personality and history (Natalya, Aggie, all of Natalya's older female relatives, Heidi the mermaid and Abby the muse, Karey the pregnant nymph), the main male characters weren't interesting at all. The minor male characters (Natalya's goblin boss, her creepy necromancer coworker with whom she goes on one very memorable date) were more engaging than the two love interests! It was as if in trying to make the male leads inoffensive and likeable to a vast number of readers, they lost the ability to have any sort of interesting angles or personality. This is a pretty common complaint I have with paranormal romances, though, so more devoted fans of the genre probably wouldn't mind the way I did.

Second, the plot was just...meh. When a rival pack is encroaching on Natalya's former pack's area, they particularly target Natalya, and no one knows why, least of all Natalya. The reason why was so clumsily handled that I set aside the book and almost didn't finish the last few pages. (view spoiler) It wasn't cohesive, it wasn't organic, and it wasn't believable. Other unbelievable things: there was no indication that Natalya's former pack, or werewolves in general, were good for anything other than group barbeques and breeding. Compared to the dimension Madison gave to the paranormal world in other senses, this lack of detail of what it meant to be a werewolf or a pack member felt oddly jarring.

Third, little things in the writing style irritated me. Some of the things Natalya said made no logical sense or contradicted herself.

Example: Natalya and Thorn discover that her male relatives, camping out in a forest to find a missing pack member, had their camp infiltrated and seized by the rival pack. They're sneaking upon the camp and Natalya thinks, "For once I was proud of my uncles--they'd picked a position that we could approach from downwind." Am I missing something? Why should she be proud? Sure, that location makes it convenient for her and Thorn's stealth approach, but it was also kinda what let the rival pack sneak up on them, too. Don't be proud of them for their stupid mistake, Natalya.

Another example: Natalya remembers a painful piece of Aggie's family history, how Aggie's mother was used as a breeder. She says, "Aggie had never let me forget that fact during camp. While everyone else opened up about their problems, Aggie was too embarrassed to talk about the dirty little secret among the more affluent packs--the practice of forced breeding for the high-ranking females." How did Aggie never let Natalya forget if she was too embarrassed to talk about it? Am I missing something, because isn't that a contradiction? There's no follow up sentences about how it was a secret Aggie told Natalya once in complete confidence, etc., just two sentences that didn't make sense together.

And a third example of jarring inconsistency in the writing: "Why did every guy--the ones who knew I was a werewolf, that is--assume that when I said it was that time of the month that I meant a woman's monthly cycle? Well, it wasn't as if I mentioned the subject very often. When I said it to Bill, he simply nodded and replied, 'So that's why Mrs. Ferguson kept sniffing the other customers.'" If, quote "every guy" made the menstrual cycle assumption, IT'S A CONTRADICTION for Bill to have not. I...just...ack. Same paragraph, contradictory sentences. Why should I assume that "every guy" was an exaggeration? Why couldn't it just

have been "nearly every guy"? When I'm arguing about minor words in your prose, you can guess I've been yanked out of the story world.

Anyway, the writing often felt careless like that and made me lose trust in the story. There are other examples, but those are some of the ones that irritated me the most.

Overall, there was a lot to like, but a lot to find irritating and unengaging. I think many paranormal romance readers looking for a not-so-high-octane series with fresh ideas about worldbuilding and characters would be pleased by this book.

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## **Naoms says**

Originally posted at: Confessions of an Opinionated Book Geek

4.5 Stars

There are many werewolf/pack/shifter stories out there. Many of those stories have multiple supernatural creatures like fae, witches and necromancers. What makes Shawntelle Madison's debut series "Coveted," stand out is her unique, completely messed up and incredibly entertaining characters. This book has a motley crew of obsessive compulsives, hoarders and germaphobes. Natalya, the heroine of this story, is at the top of the dysfunctional pyramid being in possession of all three.

This book is action packed with battle scenes, malicious attacks and even a hoard of zombie warriors. The writing is entertaining and flows so wonderfully from page to page, that it's easy to breeze through and difficult to put down. In just about every version of werewolf fantasy novels, the Pack is portrayed as old school, incredibly brutal and not at all fair. The pack in "Coveted," is no different. What is different is the quite compelling idea of how a werewolf with a mental disorder as debilitating as OCD, is not only treated, but viewed in this tough animal like world.

The story begins with the return of Natalya's ex-boyfriend, Thorn. From the first moment his name is mentioned, it's clear that Thorn is a trigger of Natalya's condition. Her anxiety and discomfort grows just from the mention of his name. The minute he appears, all goes south. It's easy to say, "well, that's love," but Madison takes her character to a different level of complexity. While Natalya is pleased at his return, she is terrified that he will see what she has become.

Natalya's OCD is viewed as more than just a weakness. It is seen as a potential threat to the pack. She is more than ignored or abused, Natalya was tossed aside due to the pack's inability to understand or help her. Thorn's abandonment pushed her over the edge and allowed her disorder to swallow her up. His return forces her to face her issues and seek help. It is her desire to improve herself and regain access to her pack that pushes Natalya to join a quite awesome therapy group filled with supernaturals. The group ranges from a mermaid who is afraid of returning to the ocean to a dwarf who is too tall to find love within his own people. Their disorders and issues are wide ranging, faintly ridiculous to consider and yet so well mirrors real life problems.

In the midst of group therapy and reconnecting with her food addict best friend named Aggie, the werewolf pack from Long Island attacks. The Long Island pack takes the brutal and sneaky mode of action. The

invading pack sneaks in kills the weakest and kidnaps beloved members of the pack for ransom. Being an rogue wolf and weak, Natalya is instantly marked for execution. While trying to keep her extremely neat world in order, Nat is constantly under attack, spurned by her fellow wolves and getting mixed signals from Thorn.

What follows is an incredibly entertaining story that ends with a battle so awesome and engaging, you will be cheering on these characters to the end. Throughout, there are moments of injustice, amusing Russian family dinners and adventures with an intriguing white Wizard, named Nick.

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### **SheLove2Read says**

Coveted is the first full length book in the *Coveted* series, and fleshes out Natalya a bit more from the prequel. This is strict urban fantasy with very little romance but that was fine with me. We're diving deeper into the why of Nat's OCD, her on-again, off-again relationship with Thorne, and meeting old friends and new who, for me anyway, made the story enjoyable.

I can see why some reviewers didn't "get" Nat. Unless you are OCD, you probably won't. It's a mental disorder that is rooted in deeper emotion than just hoarding for the sake of hoarding, as is the case with Nat. She's lost her pack, she's lost her man, and she's lost the mojo that makes Nat who she should be. Personally, I thought it was a bit heartrending.

I didn't like Thorne at all. I thought he was an ass and the way he treated Nat was wrong. I hope she moves on from him in a hurry. What I did love was Nat's family of crazy aunts and brothers, and I absolutely adored her (grandmother) Babushka. I also really enjoyed her new friends she meets at her support group for OCD behavior. There's a scene at the end of the book that ROCKS, and it's all due to them!

Overall, I think if you go into this book expecting a romance, you're going to be let down. But if you give yourself time to enjoy the nuances of the story, you'll be pleasantly surprised. 3.5 stars

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### **Alana ~ The Book Pimp says**

I have to admit... it was slow going at first. Natalya is a hard character to sympathize with initially- at least for me. OCD female, Russian werewolf and hoarder of beautiful Christmas ornaments. It's much to take in and grow fond of. But somehow, by the end (despite my doubts) I eagerly read and even open up book #2 upon completion. A solid 4♥'s on this first installment of the Coveted series.

What I really liked about this series:

While it's not a traditional romance by any means, there are still moments that hold such romantic promise, and some spicy memories as an added bonus. With romance being on the back burner, it allowed for more world building and the opportunity to meet many characters. Despite the plethora of supernatural critters,

following along without getting overwhelmed was surprisingly easy. Also, you have to give a special nod to complete originality of pairing a werewolf with severe OCD. I also found Nick to be like a more girl-knowledgeable (and probably more attractive) version of Dresden. Not quite as snarky as Dresden and a series dose of OCD in its place. And something must be said about the variety, a near buffet of supernatural for every persuasion. If you are looking for a challenge that requires some sort of shifter/goblin/mermaid/muse/dwarf (and more) then you may well find it in this book. There are some moments of humor that made me smile and on occasion laugh, which is always a nice addition to any story.

**What I was not in love with:**

It's really, really not easy to sympathize with Nat with the lengthy descriptions of her OCD. Yes, it adds depth to the story, but for me I was a little sick of the OCD after a while. Monk, she is not (if anyone out there was a fan of the OCD, comedic mystery TV show) and it was an uphill battle. Also, I 'get' the whole ranking in werewolf society; it's nearly to be expected - but Nat took meek to a new all-time low. I wanted to scream at her to grow a backbone and be the strong wolf I know is in there somewhere! And my dissatisfaction was not reserved for only Nat. Thorne... other than the meager look into the past passion and the obvious physical attraction, I'm just not 'sold' on him being the guy for her. All the Erica drama, pack drama, OCD drama, oh, let's not forget one out of left field 'revelation' that made me huff in frustration while reading. Thorne should beg and grovel, and Nat needs to put on her big-girl (slightly less OCD) panties.

The latter half of the book providing more action which can be harder to wait for. I do ultimately feel the entire read was worth it, and it did earn the full 4♥'s. I was intrigued enough with Natalya by the end to want to immediately pick up book 2 and continue the series. It may be a harder sell, but I think it has real possibilities. I'm rather interested to see if anything further happens with Nick and if Thorne gets the kick in the pants I think he deserves.

*I received this eBook from NetGalley for free in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Laurel says**

Coveted is advertised as a paranormal romance. It has these elements, but I think it makes quite a nice urban fantasy, as well. I enjoyed the lead character, not to mention her good friend, Aggie. Many of the other characters improved as the book went along, and I'm deeply intrigued by the world beginning to peek out from under the covers. All in all, I'm looking forward to the sequel!

A nice little read!

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### **Mara says**

[Gran that transforms in to a monster, weird werewolf magic that appears when u

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## **Carmel (Rabid Reads) says**

### **Reviewed by: Rabid Reads**

Let me start off my saying that I. Did. Not. Like. This. Book. In fact, I barely finished it. Now, let me fill you in on the why. The main heroine is extremely hard to like. She comes off as flat, selfish and judgmental, not to mention the fact that she seems to care more about her Christmas ornaments than her family. The main plot line barely makes a ripple; it's so mundane that's it's almost invisible. And finally, there's zero spark between Nat and her love interest, Thorn. *Coveted* is weighed down by unnecessary details and contains next to no substance. This book definitely wasn't my thing. The werewolves couldn't even save this one.

Natalya Stravinsky is a hard character to connect with and an even harder one to like. I thought that her OCD would make her "real"; shed some light on the mental disorder, or at the very least, be amusing in a quirky kind of way. Unfortunately her hoarding problem was just plain annoying. Madison doesn't explain the what or the why's behind her Christmas ornament obsession but instead bores readers with the useless details surrounding the acquiring and the storing of her decorations. A riveting read this does not make. Then there's the fact that instead of being sensitive to others' problems Nat is extremely judgmental. Who is she to turn down her nose at a potential date or to criticize how someone dresses? She needs to take a good look in the mirror before she insults others.

The main plot line is barely identifiable. Apparently the Long Island pack wants her dead. We're not really sure why; it's not like Natalya's a big threat or anything. The reason is blurred out towards the end almost as an afterthought and the "big reveal" only gets a one sentence explanation. The whole thing seemed rather trivial to me. I think that it would have been helpful had Madison filled readers in on the why a little earlier on in the story. It would have at least given some context to the werewolf war and how someone as weak as Nat became their prime target.

The romance (if you can even call it that) between Natalya and Thorn fell short. The majority of the male characters in this book are underdeveloped. Other than the occasional emotion from Thorn, he's very two dimensional and as a result, it's hard to understand the attraction between him and Nat. Also, the fact that mr. zero personality totally eclipses sweetie-pie Nick is a shame. There's an insane amount of pretz introduced in this first installment but none of their abilities are explained, no background info is provided and I'm still not entirely sure whether humans know of their existence or not. There's countless huge gaping holes in the story that make *Coveted* an extremely frustrating read.

This book is very much character driven thanks to Nat's first person POV narrative and because *Kept* promises to be more of the same I am having a hard time committing to reading the second book in this series. I'm sure that there was some good in *Coveted* but I had a difficult time finding it buried underneath all of the irritating flaws.

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## **Kristen says**

GENRE: Urban Fantasy

THEME: werewolves, wizards, necromancer, goblin

RECEIVED: Received for Review from Author

BLOG: <http://seeingnight.blogspot.com/>

**REVIEW:**

Coveted is the first book in a new Urban Fantasy series by debut author Shawntelle Madison. I'm a big fan of werewolf novels and always looking for something different with that genre. Madison does just that with creating a lead character having a unique habit of collecting Christmas ornaments, which made me laugh. I can only image what her house looks like.

Natalya is an outcast of her pack, picking up this habit after her ex-boyfriend left her and she gave up her chances of a real job. She begins working at a small shop in town, where years later her ex comes back and is now the Alpha of her old pack. While trying to get her life back together and getting control of her OCD, she has to deal with being a target of a rival pack. Along with some friends she meets in her therapy sessions, she has to step up and fight her past and stay alive.

Natalya, was a really interesting heroine, not really a tough as nails type of girl I normally read about in Urban Fantasies. Her OCD is a little strange and I really wished she should have stood up for herself a little more, especially with Thorn. Otherwise near the end she really starts to show her kick butt side and picking up the pieces.

Then there are the boy, Thorn and Nick. Both have a unique relationship with Natalya. Thorn does have a past and there is definitely chemistry but sadly his father doesn't approve of her. Nick is a bit of a mystery, he helps Natalya with her OCD and I can see there might be some more interactions later on. Plus he's a wizard and gave her a rose; I think he might make for an interesting love interest. Don't expect a lot of romance, there are some hints but not majorly focused on.

Overall I enjoyed this new UF, it has a lot of humor but still keeps its focus on Natalya trying to recover from her past and growing up in a way. There are a lot fun side characters, including Natalya's BFF Abby who makes for some more drama in her life. Plus a lot of involvement with Natalya's family and her friends in therapy, bring a lot of excitement to Coveted.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an adult novel that is perfect for fans of authors Jenn Bennett and Devon Monk and for those looking for a different twist in the Urban Fantasy genre.

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**Carolyn Storer says**

**Originally reviewed for [www.BookChickCity.com](http://www.BookChickCity.com)**

**This is a "DID NOT FINISH" (DNF), which is why I haven't rated it.**

"Coveted" is my first DNF (did not finish). I've always made a point of pushing on to the bitter end, even if I wasn't enjoying a book, even if the book was unremarkable or unimaginative. But there are so many aspects to this book I didn't like, I made the decision that this time I wouldn't put myself through it. Hence the DNF.

The blurb about this book really piqued my interest – it states: '...inventive and funny new take on the ever-

popular urban paranormal genre‘ and ‘Charlaine Harris meets Janet Evanovich‘ (two of my favourite authors). It also says ‘If Stephanie Plum were a werewolf, she’s be something like Nat‘ – umm, no she wouldn’t. The writing nor the characters are anything like Charlaine Harris (Sookie) or Janet Evanovich (Stephanie).

To begin with the main character, Nat Stravinsky, is not a particularly likable character. I wanted to like her I really did. On paper she has everything I love in my heroine, but as I read on I realised she just wasn’t it. Even with all her problems, Nat isn’t very interesting and she comes across as pretty selfish and judgmental.

“...I had an unexpected visitor from New York, Heidi the mermaid stopped by... Every time I saw her, I expected her to look like the legends in books. Long blonde hair, pale, translucent skin. But with bronzed skin, dark red hair and light green eyes, this mermaid in black boots wouldn’t inspire anyone’s bedtime story.”

Really? She sounds inspiring enough to me!

The other instance where I saw this was when she went on a date with Quinton, a work colleague. I understand that being a necromancer and having zombie’s following you about doesn’t make for a very romantic hero, but this guy was nothing but nice to her and yet she just blew him off, even though she was the one who asked him out! Then when he saved her life from a pack of werewolves, all she could think about was herself.

I love characters with quirky personalities, problems, flaws and fault’s. They all make the characters more real and relatable. Anything that fleshes out a character and gives them a wonderful backstory hooks me in every time, if done well of course – Chess Putnam from Stacia Kane’s Downside Ghosts comes to mind. But in “Coveted” Nat’s condition was just over done. Every page described her obsession with hoarding christmas decorations, and how her house was rammed with boxes filled to the brim with all these little ornaments she called her ‘friends’. She also has a problem dealing with untidiness and nearly had a fit when her friend made her a batch of cookies in her kitchen. This could have been humorous and endearing, even poignant, but there was no depth to Nat’s condition. Nothing she said stirred any emotion within me and it is this aspect to Nat’s personality that I felt wasn’t executed very well and was therefore unconvincing.

But it wasn’t just Nat that had a mental health problem. Everyone I read about seemed to be a neurotic mess. As well as Nat’s obsessive compulsive disorder, her friend Aggie, a high ranking werewolf, is bulimic and has problems with her weight, Abby, a muse to authors, thinks everyone is after her, which makes her fearful and paranoid, and Heidi, the mermaid friend mentioned above, suffers from anxiety and phobia of dark places, preventing her from entering the ocean and seeing her family.

Heidi raised her face to the sun. “So glad to be farther inland. I get the blotches when the full moon approaches. The tides kick my ass.

“Blotches?” [Nat]

She [Heidi] pulled up her tank top to reveal light blue dots that resembled hives along her ribs. Most likely her body’s reaction to anxiety.

Nat isn’t a particularly strong character either. She constantly mentions how she isn’t worthy of Thorn’s affections and basically comes across as a bit of a drip, a wet blanket... Listening to a character self-deprecating incessantly doesn’t make for fun reading. The attraction between Nat and Thorn just wasn’t there for me. They had been an item five years previously and he had just come back into town. Although he

left Nat without explanation, she acts like a love sick teenager, hanging on to his every word and their dialogue felt forced and unnatural.

There is no complexity to Nat (as there is with Chess), and if my heroine is going to be given flaws and vulnerabilities, then I must believe in them, or have some sort of emotional reaction to them other than just irritation. Such conditions as Nat's has to be expertly dealt with for it to be successfully integrated into a genre such as paranormal romance, sadly it wasn't in this instance.

#### VERDICT:

“Coveted” did not capture or retain my interest. Take away the numerous paragraphs detailing Nat's OCD and there wasn't much left to read about. After 110 pages of neuroses, awkward dialogue, non-existent plot and uninspiring romance, I'm afraid I had to call it a day.

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#### **LadyDamonayde says**

This was a really great book and not a typical UF/PNR. I was surprised and delighted by the characters, especially Natalya. first and foremost because she has the mental illness of OCD and hoarding. I've never seen an fantasy character portrayed with an illness quite like this. Lot's of them are neurotic and have emotional issues, but Natalya is quite different. But she's also strong, smart and even funny. the story is strong and will leave you ready for the next book, just to see more of Thorn and Nick. Great job Shawntelle :)

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#### **Amanda Bonilla says**

I was lucky enough to snag an early copy of COVETED. A great book by a fantastic new author! I'm always anxious to find new werewolf series and Shawntelle Madison's South Toms River pack is a great addition to my werewolf list.

The story follows Natalya, a were who's been cast from her pack because of OCD tendencies that come in the form of collecting and hoarding Christmas ornaments. In order to take control of her life and gain re-entry into her pack, Natalya joins into therapy with a group of eclectic supernatural creatures. Throughout the course of the story she has to not only deal with coming to terms with her OCD, but fighting off attacks from a rival werewolf pack set on killing her. The sexual tension in this story doesn't disappoint, as Natalya is confronted not only with her former lover and soon-to-be pack Alpha, Thorn, but an intriguing white wizard from her therapy group, named Nick.

Madison entertains throughout the story with her colorful secondary characters including a goth necromancer, goblin employer, and her best friend Aggie, a lone wolf with problems of her own. The book is heavy on humor while dealing well with the very serious issue of OCD. Natalya finds strength in herself as the story progresses, and with help from her new-found friends, becomes the kick-ass werewolf she never thought she'd be. I'm already anxious to read the sequel, KEPT. A definite must-read!

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## **Anastasia ? says**

Review posted at [SoManyBooksSoLittleTime](#)

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## **Ann says**

Alright, I just have to say that as a debut novel for Shawntelle Madison this book is amazing and I think more authors should follow her example. Her writing and characterization is fantastic. It kept me interested throughout and made me want to continue even after finishing the last pages. What happens to these characters? Where will the storyline go from here? Not surprisingly, I am watering at the mouth in expectation for the next book in the series.

My favorite characters in this book were basically everyone but if I had to pick one or two I would say the main heroine Nat and her sidekick of awesomeness Aggie. Aggie's witty repartee was a constant source of amusement for me. She acted like a friend should in my opinion and she wasn't always giving the kindest remarks or holding the heroine up, she gave it as she saw it. Nat's character is where I really connected with the book though. I don't like to advertise my condition but I too suffer from mild to moderate OCD. I am not like Nat in the collecting holiday ornaments area but I do purchase quite a few things and take pleasure in owning certain items. Therefore, having a main heroine in a book who I could relate to on such an intimate level really made this book that much more wonderful for me. Also, I feel like lately urban fantasy heroines are so perfect - usually good-looking, skilled, desired etc. and suffer from few to little humanizing tendencies. Therefore, Madison exploring a mental illness like OCD with a heroine who already is outted by her pack and not the best fighter, makes her that much more believable and real.

I think the only downside I could even think of concerning this book is the fact that sometimes I really wished Nat would just push Thorn aside, give up on him, and move on. In some sense she did that by the end of the book but I didn't appreciate Thorn stringing her along while he was engaged/already promised to another woman. I think I liked Nick better anyway ;) Although, don't get me wrong both men were hot. If Thorn changes his ways a bit and gets rid of Erica then I am all for a Thorn/Nat pairing, but not before he shapes up!

One other thing: GRANDMA STRAVINSKY! SHE IS SO AWESOME AND I WISH I HAD A GRANDMA LIKE HER!

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