



Cupid Rocks

Francesca Hawley

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The True Mate Wolf series, Book 4

When her parents' rock band The Pack performs at Zach's bar, Mandy discovers her True Mate, Joe Blackwolf, the band's lead singer and guitarist. All she has to do now is convince Joe that she told a little white lie to make her mom happy, her father that rock musicians aren't all alike, and her new mate's family that rockers aren't all that different from classical musicians.

Joe Blackwolf is celebrating his fortieth birthday. And what he wishes for when he blows out the candles is to find his True Mate. He succeeds when he meets Mandy Goldwolf. Problem is...she belongs to someone else. Finding out the truth leaves him free to explore every inch of her smokin' hot curves, but now Joe and Mandy are neck deep in overbearing relatives and everyone is in for a rockin' Valentine's Day.

A Romantica® paranormal erotic romance from Ellora's Cave.

Cupid Rocks Details

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Author : Francesca Hawley

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From Reader Review Cupid Rocks for online ebook

Jody says

As a fan of the paranormal genre and stories with rock star characters I found myself immediately drawn to this story, but upon the conclusion I was left a bit disappointed. The writing was well done with an eclectic cast of characters set in the realistically portrayed world of rock music and all the sexuality oozing from that world. What fell a bit short for me was the paranormal part of the story which was barely touched upon. These are various families of werewolves with all the power that entails however, with the exception of one scene, you would never know the characters are werewolves. The melodrama that surrounds the h/h is on a more mundane/human level. We see jealousy, addiction, and father/son issues. It's only through talking and a sharing of secrets, not brawn, that a HEA is achieved.

Mandy is tired of the pressure her mother puts on her to find a Mate so she enlists the help of her best friend Zach to get her off her back but is shocked to discover that the new guitar player is in fact the Mate her mother's always wanted her to find. What starts out as a little white lie soon turns into a scene from a soap opera as the truth is slowly revealed and Mandy must adjust to what it means to have a True Mate, one who hears your every little thought. I never really warmed up to Mandy as I found her to be a bit of a spoiled brat in her early dealings with Joe. She wanted to be the constant center of attention and threw a fit when she wasn't. Using her friend Zach early on and then later to create jealousy also lessened her likability for me and has me hoping Zach will eventually find someone much more worthy of his loyalty.

Joe is super sexy and rocks not only the stage but the bedroom too. He has lots of emotional baggage stemming from a cheating ex to an extremely exacting and judgmental father that kept me intrigued and hoping that a new love will give him the support he needs to put these hurts behind him. Meeting his father you can't help but admire Joe's openness and vitality since his father was cold and unyielding. He's never afraid to show his emotions and never played petty sexual games to keep Mandy by his side.

It's through the power of music that these different families bond and where old hurts are put right, the latter half of the story was a smorgasbord of music and musical terms that eventually led to a picture perfect HEA where everyone was happy. Along the way are numerous hot and heavy sexual interludes between the h/h that are well-written and immensely satisfying. The whole story ends up being entertaining but not quite perfect. As this is my first book by Ms. Hawley, I'm intrigued enough by Cupid Rocks that I'll definitely check out more books from this talented writer.

Stephanie says

Original Post at Fangs, Wands and Fairy Dust
Cupid Rocks! and Wolfs Out!

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DESCRIPTION

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MY TAKE

Francesca visited the blog 10 days ago with a really fun look at her playlist for writing CUPID ROCKS. Here are my thoughts on her book.

Francesca's book has a very interesting story, a set of ideas that don't normally come together. First, there's a lot of curvy-girl sex. It's very raw sex, and occasional allusions are made to the ample figure of the very hot female character, Mandy.

Then you have rock musicians: Francesca's are wolf shifters who live in a wolf shifter town and other magical creatures are living in the area too. That gives her the ability to not worry about wolfing out in front of humans. I have been enjoying rockstar-erotica lately. Francesca's Wolf-Rockers are not Rock stars though. "The Pack," as the band is called, is playing small venues with their new front man, Joe. On the road they stop to stay at their daughter's house. Their daughter, Mandy and Joe fall for each other and find they're "True Mates."

To get her mother off her back about settling down she has a friend who's acting as her pretend mate. It causes problems. But, they get solved quickly and the rest of the book is about learning to be mates, family problems (like Joe's overbearing father) and overcoming Mandy's stage fright. With the main obstacle removed at the beginning of the story the rest is a slower pace, filled with sex and family interaction, not at the same time.

It's a really interesting and unusual combo of the rock-erotica sub-genre with the Wolf-Shifter sub-genre. Francesca shows a lot of promise but could do some work on her descriptive abilities. I didn't feel she was comfortable with the more erotic aspects of the story. But, I liked the idea of getting through familial issues as supes being about the same as with people. And the clash between her rocker family and his academic and classical parents and brothers is surely unusual -- for those of us old enough to remember a rock and roll Bridget loves Bernie.

The concept and the writer show a lot of promise!

Kim Person says

Quick fun read ... break from my typical read but hit the spot!!!

Megan says

3.5 Stars

Mandy Goldwolf is tired of being pressured by her mother to take a mate and have pups. She has been waiting until she meets her true mate but that hasn't happened so she decides to pretend to be mated in order to get her mother to back off. Unfortunately her plans for a fake mating get in the way when she meets her true mate who just happens to be a member of her parents band. Joe Schwarzerwulf has also been waiting on his true mate but that hasn't stopped him from living, and acting, in true rock and roll fashion. When he see Mandy during his set he is instantly attracted to her and seeks her out on his break. One thing leads to another and the hotness begins.

Joe and Mandy together are smoking hot! They have many sexy scenes and they don't all take place in the bedroom. There is a lot of bedroom action but there is build up as well. The sexual attraction between these characters was very well written. You could feel the heat and desire from both of them and it made them so enjoyable to read. Joe is also a bit of a romantic so he gets pretty romantic on Mandy. It was a lot of fun to read.

This isn't just about a rock singer and his mate. That is just the beginning. Most of the book deals with family dynamics, being accepted and loved for who you are the joys of finding the perfect person. I loved Mandy's parents, they are hilarious. Mostly her mother but her dad was pretty awesome too. Joe's parents start off a little stiff but as they warm up and mix with Mandy and her family they become more demonstrative and relaxed.

I enjoyed the musical details that Hawley included. There are mentions of specific songs, artists and different genres that all help to give depth to the characters and the story they are telling. I especially enjoyed the look into Joe's family life where he is considered the outsider since he went the way of rock and roll while the rest of his family followed the classic music route. After meeting his brothers in this story I am hoping they will get their own books. It would be nice to get more information about them and get a brief glimpse of Joe and Mandy after they settle down.

I was left wondering about what the future is for Mandy and Joe. We learn they are true mates and they are going to be together but I was wondering more about their living situation. It is mentioned that Joe's band travels constantly and he doesn't always make a lot of money. Will Mandy travel with the band? Does she join the band? Do they live in her house? There seemed to be some interest in Joe's parents liking Mandy's town so will they move there? Just these little things left me wondering but not enough to make me dislike the story.

Josette Reuel says

So, lately I've been on a rocker kick, every time I see a romance about a rocker, I want to read it. So, when I saw this one and it was about a werewolf rocker. I just had to read it.

So, you have a werewolf boy and girl that have been seeking their "True Mates" for a few years (they are 35 and 40 years old, but shifters live to be over a 100, so age isn't a problem). However, the girl tells her mom that she found hers and gets a friend to pretend that he's her mate, just to get mom off her back.

Unfortunately, in walks real True Mate. The lie of course causes issues and the fact that the boy is in her father's band is an issue. Not to mention the emotional baggage of both.

So, not sure that the werewolf-ism really played a part in much of the story. I think more information about being werewolf and what it entailed could have helped the story. For example, why did Mandy go into heat? Why did she need a "heat buddy"? etc.

I enjoyed the story and was pretty much hooked until the end. There were a few times that it felt like the story dragged a bit. I felt that a lot of weight was put on the "lie" of her having a mate when she met Joe, but then it was all tied up with a bow very early in the book. I think more mileage could have been given to this event. A few more interactions between the main characters, before it was solved. Even so I enjoyed watching them grow as a couple throughout and how they helped each other to overcome their issues from the past. The other issue that I had was the whole "I love you" being said so early. They didn't even really know each other yet. I know that the "true mate" thing drives them a bit, but I feel that the human nature side of them would dictate that they need to get to know each other a bit before declaring their undying love.

So, yes it was a good read. It made me laugh and I felt the emotions as Joe dealt with the family issues with his Dad.

Recommend: Yes

Chitra *CJ* says

Firstly, apart from sports romances, my second least fav genre is rockstar romances. There are very few books I like in these two, and most are by SEP. But since Im OCD, and this is part of the series Im reading, I had to. Hence my review might be biased.

Didn't feel this one at all.

Firstly, dont like the concept of having a heat buddy, making him be your fake mate--> real mate shows up--> you do it and then there's a sex buddy and real mate meeting.

Also awkward run ins with parents post sex..um NO.

Cute story of true mates Mandy and Joe..but didnt work for me.

Had well written sex and a few good scenes, but way too long and the whole singing/family plot..nah
Safe read..

2/5

Dee says

3.25 stars

I didn't realise this was part of a series, it was cheap on amazon.co.uk and I was waiting in a hospital (*not for myself, I'm eerily healthy!*) so I grabbed it. I caught what were probably references to the other books but I

don't think it particularly impacted the story in any way (*except to irk my OCD!*). Not sure if it was because I mostly stick to m/m but the sex scenes got repetitive and excessive - if I heard "you're so wet" one more time. . .

That aside this was a nice read, I'm not completely sold on the supernatural dynamics and I thought the idea that Mandy came along and "fixed" Joe's family dynamic was rather rushed and patronising but sweet nonetheless.

Judy says

Cupid Rocks by Francesca Hawley was one of those stories I picked up on impulse. I had not read a real review of it, but between seeing the cover in several blogs and that cover just speaking to me, I went ahead and grabbed this. For some reason, I had in my mind that it was more of a short story or novella. Nope, full length novel, but it read very quickly and smoothly like a novella would. This was the first book I have read by Ms. Hawley, but I doubt it will be the last.

The story starts off with Mandy Goldwolf getting ready for her parents band, The Pack, to come into town for a brief sabbatical off the road. They will be working in the studio and celebrating her parents anniversary. She is also lying to her parents about finding a mate. The owner of the local bar where The Pack will be playing and a long time friend of Mandy's is going to play the part of her mate. Problems soon arise, when Mandy meets the new lead singer, Joe Blackwolf, and discovers her actual True Mate. Can anyone else guess how badly this is going to turn out? But that was just this tip of the ice burg. The story continues on with a depth that totally surprised me.

The story was told in the view point of both Mandy and Joe. Both have issues going into this relationship, but the other one is there to help them work through them. The coming together of family and the breaking down of long held misunderstandings was a very nice thing to see. I really liked how two such diverse family groups came together to find common ground. Yes, there was sex, but all of it helped to move the story forward. It didn't feel like it was just there as a gratuitous sex scene or was too over the top to be really believable. As for the paranormal aspects, the wolf was so well integrated into the story that it just seemed believable in this story. I wasn't thrown out of the story at any point, going "Oh Come On, Really!" or "*Snort*, Seen THAT before". Because, hey, been there, done that. The wolf is a part of the story, but the main theme was family and forgiveness and love.

I am giving this 4 stars on Goodreads. 3 1/2 for a solid good story, and 1/2 star because of that cover. What a great impulse read. Here's to trusting your instincts and finding great books everywhere you read.

Khenta says

Meh. Too much teenage angst and drama in mature adults (esp. with the parents in the same house!). And I don't care what universe the story is set in, women are *not* pregnant 10 hours after intercourse. It may take days until the egg is fertilized, then days again until the fertilized egg embeds into the uterus.

JJH--Judy says

2 1/2-3 stars. I love shifter stories, and I love rock stories--I really wanted to love this. Except for the whole "true mate" thing, the entire shifter aspect was practically missing. This is the first book I read from this author, maybe if I had read the other books in the series I would have gotten it. Parts were just weird to me. I thought the "I love you's" came WAY too early. The H's parents treated him and his brothers like children (they are 40ish), and the h's parents treated her like a peer. Writing style was decent, characters were entertaining, sex scenes were spicy, but pretty over-the-top. I thought the plot was pretty much on the flat side--I ended up skimming a lot to get to interesting parts.

Nancy says

I liked this story...even shed a tear or two.

I ended up flicking between the story and iTunes to have a quick listen to the songs mentioned to help get into the story.

I would like to read stories for Joe's two brothers too.
