



A Beginner's Guide to Wooing Your Mate

R. Cooper

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A Being(s) in Love Story

Zeki Janowitz has returned to his hometown of Wolf's Paw to start his wizarding career. Unfortunately, Wolf's Paw, a werewolf refuge, follows centuries of tradition and shuns human magic and a very human Zeki. He knows he's in for a struggle, but a part of him has always belonged in the mountain town, or rather belonged to Theo Greenleaf. Years away at school haven't lessened Zeki's crush on the quiet werewolf. When town gossip informs him Theo still suffers from his mate's rejection and does not date, it does little to ease Zeki's embarrassing feelings. He decides now's the time to get the man he's always wanted.

Werewolves usually don't recover from losing their mates, and Theo barely pulled through by focusing on his love of baking. It's a daily struggle, and Zeki's return to Wolf's Paw shatters his peace. Theo doesn't know what to think when Zeki attempts to woo him, talking about his wizarding business and settling in town for good. It's like Zeki doesn't have a clue how his words years before left Theo a shell of a werewolf.

Beginners in love, Theo and Zeki must seduce each other with a bit of heavenly baking and magic.

A Beginner's Guide to Wooing Your Mate Details

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From Reader Review A Beginner's Guide to Wooing Your Mate for online ebook

Rosa, really says

New Being(s) in Love book, you say?

I'M SO *FREAKIN'* EXCITED!!!

Jilrene ♥ says

It started a little slow, but I nearly read it in one sitting. I love this author. So far, I've been very happy with every book.

This book is pretty fluffy, even though the plot revolves around a miscommunication which happened before the book starts. I generally don't like communication drama, but for this story it actually made sense. As much as these things can. I loved Theo and Zeki.

Ulysses Dietz says

R. Cooper's weakest feature is her titles. "Some Kind of Magic" and "A Boy and his Dragon" are far more interesting and richly written than their titles suggest. The same is true with this latest in the Cooper's marvelous, imaginative fantasies, "A Beginner's Guide to Wooing Your Mate."

The fact is, I love these books and was happy to see a third in the series—which posits a world in which magical beings are just part of the landscape. Imagine a world where sex-ed classes in high school include werewolf mating rituals. Imagine a world where you can be a human with magical powers, but you have to deal with pixies and fairies and dragons as neighbors.

Cooper vividly outlines the complexities of inter-species relationships. They may all look human, but every kind of creature has different cultural aspects, different skills and powers. It's a lot to keep track of, and it leads to misunderstandings.

It's a great world. In this version of it we're in a small town called Wolf's Paw, dominated by its founding werewolf community, but harmonious overall. Young human Zeki Janowitz has come home after five years away. Lonely and bullied in school, he left Wolf's Paw to study hard and become a great wizard.

But you know how life is. Out of college, no job: you move back in with dad at home. Zeki doesn't expect to get work in his home town, because everyone knows werewolves don't really trust magic.

And that's the problem with a world full of all kinds of beings: we make assumptions.

Zeki's high-school crush, Theo Greenleaf, is now a fireman in Wolf's Paw. Local lore has it that he was rejected by his mate and it left him a broken man. Zeki vaguely wonders if he might have a chance, now that he's grown up and covered with cool tattoos and a hip attitude.

Zeki's journey is a little more tortured than those of her protagonists in her two earlier books. I kept thinking of the Otter and Bear characters in TJ Klune's opulently overwrought novels. Zeki overthinks, he has a hard time just letting things be. His confusion about werewolf customs and his own lingering self-doubts get in the way.

I found Zeki very appealing, but also a little frustrating. I've known self-defeating people and, honestly, sometimes you just want to smack them.

But that's where Cooper's world is such fun. Everybody in town has his eye on Zeki, whose return to Wolf's Paw has not gone unnoticed. Zeki and his father are both fairly oblivious (humans, what can you do?), at least at first. The bottom line is that magical beings are just as confused as humans are. Especially when it comes to love. Magical powers don't make you impervious to heartache, they just add complications.

Each of these books has been a stand-alone set in the same world. There is a plot arc in this book that suggests a follow-up might be necessary. I hope so. I want R. Cooper to keep on writing.

namericanwordcat says

I love the worlds and the character's that Cooper creates but the writer really needs to figure out how to make the leads TALK TO EACH OTHER.

The dum dum ness just gets dragged out to long in which time we could be having a really great time watching Zeki and Theo be together. Being together is interesting.

The baking and magic in this book is great though.

Meep says

R.Cooper has a writing style of her own and while some find it off-putting I've enjoyed all her books to date. This one was disappointing, I struggled with it and had to push myself to read until the end, then turned the page to be left with that unsatisfied 'that's it then' feeling. At the same time I could glimpse cuteness.

Theo as a broody love interest is too cardboard. He's a hot, shy, fireman who bakes, which should be an absolute winner but there's zero sparks, no personality. Werewolves appear controlled largely by 'instinct' and the more I heard about it, the more it annoyed me; while I wanted to love Theo the urge grew to boot him up the backside tell him to F** 'instinct' and get a life!

Zeki the awkward kid who went away to become a powerful wizard/witch/whatever (the difference is never given and he doesn't care). But we don't really see the magic! He never gets to show who he is now. Which stops this becoming a fairy-tale 'being' story and leaves us with a 'Big Misunderstanding' story that keeps

circling around and not getting anywhere while the town watches. A town of adults who sit around and judge clueless kids without once thinking to sit them down and TALK. Even after Zeki gets a clue it takes time for it to register then he continues to avoid the issue until the end. FRUSTRATING. And the town watches and judges.

There's the set-up for the next book Littlewolf and his Sheriff which I understand was written before this – I kept wishing that that was the book I was reading. If this book is to set-up the town and pack mentality it would have worked better as a short story. There's fun ideas like the weekly fire-truck (and fireman) wash, I'm sure many will find it sweet, but overall (for me) it was more frustrating than engaging.

Also the book goes non-linear towards the end and I had a headache which didn't help anything, but I had to keep backtracking to figure out whose house they were in, and what was current/flashback.

And a minor quibble – uncapitalized 'were' maybe grammatically correct, we don't capitalize 'human' and I've honestly never noticed how it's dealt with in other books, but here I kept stumbling when it appeared in sentences. Which Witch and were or Were *hmfp*h!

Desertrdryad says

I recently discovered R. Cooper's works, and I am smitten. I love both the everyday scenarios and the magical concepts. More importantly, the characters are always emotionally complex and lifelike, and I can thoroughly empathize with them. The third installment of the Being(s) in Love series, "A Beginner's Guide to Wooing Your Mate" is sweet and smoldering, full of angst, lust, and sugar. I tend to be a sucker for second chances, especially after misunderstandings, and this story was intensely pleasurable. So much so, that I found myself reading it again once I finished, savoring the incredible build-up to my favorite points.

*****Spoilers*****

My only regrets revolve around a wish for more. I would have loved to see more of the acknowledged courtship, (which was mostly summarized), the meeting of Theo's parents, more of Zeki's work, and of course the further sexual adventures of Zeki and Theo. I could almost beg for a complete series just based on these two. While it might be a long shot, I'd also like to see the resolution between the Sheriff and Littlewolf, because there were unanswered questions. Maybe in a future book? (Wishful thinking face)

At any rate, I loved this story! R. Cooper has absolutely made my day. =)

Edit: I just checked out the author's LJ, and learned that there will indeed be a LittleWolf book!!! My day has been made twice. XD

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

I have yet to figure out why R. Cooper created an entire universe in which everyone is an uncommunicative idiot.

Maarja says

While I'm not a fan of the miscommunication story device at all, I think this book was miscommunication done right. It was believable and realistic (I mean, teenagers can be really stupid!), and it didn't go on for too long. I would have liked a little more resolution at the end (Zeki figuring out how he's going to work his magic while staying there, maybe Theo doing something with his baking), but other than that, this was a really enjoyable read.

Jennifer?Pher? says

I liked this quite a bit. The misunderstanding was the overall theme but I felt like once the book got going it was easier to deal with. I have a lot of anger but none of it is towards Zeki or Theo.

I think I love baking and cooking in my books.

I have some more thoughts but I gotta get some coffee and wait to see where Meags is.

Buddy Read with my futuristic friend Meags. It is officially 11pm Friday night for her and 9am Friday morning for me...WooHoo! Time travel!

Jilly says

Oh, I had to read this! Look at that book cover!! Look at it!! WTF is going on there? Because to me, it looks like a very inappropriate relationship between an ex-con who worked in the prison kitchen, and a young boy who was lured in by the promise of baked goods. I mean, sure, doughnuts are alluring. I might be willing to run the gauntlet of some creepy pedophiles to get the right doughnut.

Stupid lying pedophiles! Why don't they just keep candy on hand?

Of course, I don't have to fear the pedobears because I'm old, but still.. I like candy! Why do they only offer it to the kids?.. oh yeah.

He added the "for kids" at the bottom after I hit him up one too many times. Jerk!

Anyway, this book was surprisingly about two adult men - one werewolf and one magician guy. They knew each other in high school and had a mutual crush, but then one left for college. He comes back, hoping to see his teenage werewolf dream lover and maybe have a chance to go out with him. I guess he was on Team Jacob. Whatever...

But, it turns out that his werewolf crush was Mr. Sad Guy now. He had found his mate, only to be rejected. So, he turned to the only thing that could make him happy - interpretive dance. Oops, no, I meant baking

cute panda bear cookies. That's right. Look at that book cover again. The big angry ex-con guy? He's sensitive. He got his feelings hurt when he was 16 and never got over it.

**sigh* "Honey, it's your turn to cheer up the cat!"*

So, Mr. Magic Guy wants to cheer up Mr. Wounded Wolf with a little bow-chicka-wow-wow. Hey, why not, right? It can't make him even more sad, could it?

Well, maybe it could. Who knows? "Honey, now you need to help the dog! What the hell is going on in our house?"

Anyway, this book was kind of cute and sweet. It doesn't live up to its cover, but I guess my hopes were pretty high so whatever. Now, I'm depressed. I think I'm going to go tell all of my problems to my pets. They are such good listeners!

Tiferet says

I didn't think it was possible, but this book surpassed even *A Boy and His Dragon* in terms of sheer delight it brings!

It's full of delicious UST oozed by lovable characters, and the lore remains fresh while still being firmly anchored in our favourite shifter and urban fantasy tropes.

Paisley says

4.5 stars. I wanted a chapter or two more of Zeki & Theo just to see them take their relationship a bit further.

I wished I had read this one before I read *Little Wolf*. I had read some reviews that put me off. That was a mistake! I really enjoyed *Little Wolf*, but now I know I would have enjoyed it much more if I had read them in order. In fact, now that I have finally read all 4 books in this series I think that this one and #4 are the only two that you really need to read in sequential order to enhance the world building and such.

I loved this one because the characters were very loveable, and there was quite a bit of romance involved. Maybe I enjoyed it more because I had already read #4, and therefore I felt a kinship to the town and its residents?

I really don't know, but I do definitely know that I want to read *Little Wolf* again, and I think I will understand it better and enjoy it even more.

Serena Yates says

What happens when two men—one human with a rare talent for magic, and one a werewolf with less self-confidence than should be legal—are meant for each other, yet are too clueless to figure it out? This story describes their painful, yet hilarious (when watching from the outside) journey to an actual relationship. They very much need a “Beginner’s Guide to Wooing Your Mate”, but since no such manual is available to them, I got to watch their attempts at connecting, communicating, and understanding. I have rarely, while reading a book, laughed so frequently, rolled my eyes as often, and yelled at both men to “just open your eyes and get a clue” as intensely as while perusing this novel.

Please find my full review on [Rainbow Book Reviews](#).

Shelby says

I just plain love this series and Zeki and Theo were adorable. I love the fluffy light style of this series. It's sweet and funny and so much fun. I really enjoyed the set up for this story as well. Teenage misunderstandings made for rich fodder when these two are reunited years later.

Zeki left the small town of Wolf's Paw 5 years before to go off and study magic in college. He hasn't been back since. But no matter how far away he got or how long he's been gone he's never really forgotten his high school crush. Still being back in town is only supposed to be temporary. Wolf's Paw is a werewolf haven and they've made it perfectly clear during his teenage years that they don't want any human magic user around. Catching sight of his old crush out washing the firetruck while on duty though is tempting in the extreme. Too bad the entire town seems to know what happened to Theo but Zeki has no clue.

Theo's gotten by on sheer guts alone after his mate rejected him when he was just a kid. He's found a sort of comfort in the fire department and his baking even though his entire were side aches for the mate he'll never have. When that mate returns after 5 years Theo's shocked and thrown for a complete loop. He never expected to see Zeki again and Zeki's reactions to seeing Theo again hardly make any sense.

I loved watching these two dance around their past and Zeki's complete ignorance of the circumstances. This mistaken history worked really well as the differences between werewolf and human interactions made the same circumstances appear as completely different depending on which side you were on. What Theo saw as a complete rejection was Zeki in a really bad moment not clear on what was happening. These two were just too adorable as they figured out everything going on between them.

Such a fun little book and made me very happy as I was reading it.

Meags says

3 Stars

This series continues to both entertain and frustrate, in equal measure. I was ready to go on quite a review

rant until about 10 minutes ago, when I went back and reread my reviews for the previous two books within the **Beings in Love** series. Doing so helped me realise how many aspects of this series I'm not only fond of, but quite impressed with. So, I'll attempt to keep my ranty instincts to a minimum and focus on the positive.

Once again, I really enjoyed the simplistic, yet effective, world-building created here. "Beings" of various forms (weres, shifters, pixies, fairies, dragons, and so forth) are recognised and integrated within the human world without much in the form of prejudice or fear from their human counterparts. I like this; the supernatural presence within our world simply is. It's a cool concept, which is surprisingly lacking in many of the paranormal books I've encountered (although, I may simply be reading the wrong books).

This story is set in the small town of Wolf's Paw--which had a whole Stars Hollow/Bluebell feel to it--with its small town vibe and charming townsfolk. In my mind I simply substituted Lorelai and Rory for a wizard and a bunch of weres, and I was totally in the right mindset. But I digress...

The story sees Zeki, newly qualified (human) wizard extraordinaire, return home to Wolf's Paw after many years away studying. Upon his return he encounters his high school crush, Theo, a shy werewolf who, as small town gossip would have it, has been left heartbroken for several years after suffering rejection by his destined mate. Zeki's reaction to this news is one of shock and disbelief that anyone could possibly reject the likes of Theo Greenleaf as their mate. We as readers are immediately clued in to the fact that this so-called fool of a rejecter is none other than Zeki himself.

So begins a classic case of misunderstanding and miscommunication, wherein lies all of my frustration with this story. Although, the whole setup provided countless opportunities for fun and quirky scenes of longing and confusion—and there were many of those (yay)—the whole mix-up drags on for way longer than was necessary, to the point that I was talking (yelling) at my kindle in frustration. I don't mind a miscommunication plot device within my stories, as long as they are handled well and remedied swiftly. This one was basically the pillar that the entire story stood on, which didn't work for me in the long run. I longed for someone (anyone) to resolve the situation; whether it involve Zeki being less of an oblivious idiot; Theo being less of a hopeless wonder; or one of the numerous townspeople (who were ALL in the know) sitting the two guys down and explaining what went wrong in their past and why. Some readers will definitely find this enjoyable and charming, but my personal interests dictate that I don't handle this trope well.

On the plus side, I enjoyed the main characters as individuals (less so as a romantic pairing). The initial introduction to Theo had me gagging for more—described as a gorgeous werewolf firefighter, who is adorably shy and loves to read and bake in his spare time. Yep, Theo was winning on all counts for me. The other thing that worked for me was the writing. Where I've previously struggled with R. Cooper's quirky writing style (particularly in the first book, *Some Kind of Magic*), here it just worked for me. I'm not sure whether my sudden enjoyment (and lack of indignant issues) is because I'm now used to her style, or whether her style has since improved in fluency with further writing experience? Either way, I'm pleased to say my past issues were non-issues here.

I guess I did a fair bit of complaining while reading this book, to which my status updates and GR friends can attest, but ultimately, I found something really endearing about this story and its charming characters. I look forward to following this series through future releases.

BR with Jen!
