



The Tempering

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The Mythology department at prestigious Harvard University is tiny—and Mackenzie Duncan has just been selected as one of the lucky few. Her love for myths and legends is deep, but she never thought any of it could be real.

After being attacked by a large wolf while walking home alone, Mackenzie realizes something is not right. She heals quickly, has suddenly become super strong, and is experiencing mood swings that can't possibly be normal. The myths she's studying aren't myths at all. Werewolves are real, and she's one of them. Fear of what she is, and who she might hurt sends Mackenzie running from the life she's worked hard to build—and straight into the arms of a handsome Were named Geoff and into the home of his pack. Living with her new pack takes the edge off her confusion and self-loathing, but the arrival of new pack members changes the dynamic, and tests Geoff and Mackenzie's growing relationship.

The hardest part of being a werewolf is to have no control and no memory of her time as a bloodthirsty beast. When a moon cycle passes, and she is actually able to remember bits and pieces of the night, she starts to ask questions, and the more questions she asks, the more she realizes she doesn't like the answers. Can she set aside her own sense of morals to belong to a pack that is like a family or will she leave everything behind yet again in search of a life she can be proud of?

The Tempering Details

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From Reader Review The Tempering for online ebook

Chantale Canadian Book Addict says

I absolutely love this book. I started reading it a few nights ago and I just couldn't put it down and ended up falling asleep later than usually and just had to continue reading in the morning .

I don't often read books about werewolves but I am so happy I read this one. It is very well written and I can't wait for the next book in this series.

I highly recommend

DelAnne Frazee says

Title: The Tempering - MacKenzie Duncan Series Book 1

Author: Adrianne James

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Overall Rating: 4.5 Great

All Mackenzie Duncan wanted was to leave her former life and family far behind. She managed to get a scholarship to Harvard and obtain a job at the local coffee shop. Deciding to do some kind of normal college activity she attends one of the football games, but is so bored she prepares to get away from the crowds and hole up in one of the darkened corners until the game is over and she can say she at least attended.

Remembering her scarf she turns back to her seat to retrieve it and literally bumps into Todd Nealy, one of the perfect crowd. He comes from money and thinks all others are beneath him.

When he insults Mackenzie she turns the tables on him and humiliates him in front of his friends and other students. Todd grabs Mackenzie's arm in a bruising grip. After an exchange of threats from Todd and insults from Mackenzie, she leaves the game and heads home through the park. As she is walking in the dim light she hears something rustling along the tree line. Suddenly a large animal comes out of the woods and stalks toward Mackenzie. Terrified of what looks like a wolf with unusual yellow-green eyes she begins to walk backwards away from it when it quickly strikes her as she trips over a large rock. As her arm is being savaged Mackenzie grabs the rock and hits the wolf on the head. Then to chase it off she throws the rock and hits the dog hard on the snout.

After painfully making it to the walkway, Mackenzie freaks when the heat from the lacerations on her arm spreads and she sees her arm begin to heal. Talking herself into believing she has hallucinated everything she

goes back to her apartment. She awakes the next morning extremely ill. She calls in sick to work and is told to show up or she is fired. She calls a friend to take notes and prepares to go to work. While she is washing off she becomes violently ill then passes out. A pounding on the door awakens her. She goes into the bathroom to wash her face and as she looks into the mirror and realizes it wasn't a dream or hallucination; because her eyes are no longer blue they are yellow-green, the same as the wolf that attacked her in the park. How can that be there are no wolves in the area, are there? What is going on? Then her friend Jordan tells her Mackenzie called on Friday to take notes and it is now Sunday. When she goes to the clinic to find out what is going on she finds she has grown two inches. Mackenzie goes on a search to find out what happened. What she finds scares her to her very soul. She fears the wolf targeted her and may come back to finish the job.

This novel grabs you from the very beginning. We have all known a bully somewhere in our lives and can identify with the scene at the game. How many times have we taken a familiar route home only to feel that we are being watched and hurried our steps? The lure of the paranormal has teased many, myself included. What would you do if you found out what you thought was just the fictional imagination of some author's mind or perhaps just plain myth was in fact true? Do werewolves walk among us? I started this book with a question as to whether it would appeal because it sounded so different from the other paranormal shifter books I had read. I am please to say that it was completely enjoyable. I loved Mackenzie Duncan even as she frightened me on where she might let herself go with her anger. I look forward now to seeing where Adrienne James will take Mackenzie and I on the next installment of this series. She has produced a character that you can watch develop and grow into herself and new abilities. You will root for her even as you hold your breath over her outbursts. Pick up a copy for yourself today.

J.C. Emery says

Go buy this book! NOW! Mackenzie Duncan is a normal college freshman with a very abnormal interest in paranormal mythology (to the point that it's her major at Harvard!) From the get-go, she's like a little ball of fire. I love a strong female lead and The Tempering has just that! Adrienne James does a great job at showing a young woman go through a horrific change and coming out the other side as stronger, and more mature. I don't want to give anything away, but Mac is exactly the kind of heroine that makes me fall in love with her-- and I'm not the only one. Hot.Male.Wolves. That's alls I'm saying.

Justine Winans says

(Originally Posted on <http://www.theyalitchick.blogspot.com>)

There are so many books out there that involve werewolves, and since most of them follow the lore, it is hard to create a werewolf novel that is unique. But, oh my, was James able to put together a great one. I faced The Tempering head on, and I am not too proud to admit that I was bitten.

Mackenzie is a great protagonist. She is strong, funny, and completely kills the annoying whiny in-love female character stereotype. She has a temper, but this just adds to her likeability, as no one wants a

character who is completely perfect in every way. Mackenzie is much more easy to connect to, as well as a great role model.

Normally, I am not a fan of love triangles (V's. Unless we are talking Twelfth Night, it's more of a V.) but I actually didn't mind it in The Tempering. Both Geoff and Liam are excellent characters. Geoff has that mysterious, forbidden kind of heat that grows from the beginning. Liam is funny and sweet, and I absolutely loved the growth of his relationship with Mackenzie. I found myself unable to completely choose between the two of them, and really got tied into the romance. (I do have a favorite, but I am going to avoid being biased here.)

The Tempering uses a lot of lore, which adds to the plot of werewolves in a way that many other books cannot. The background and history of the werewolves that was included definitely was a bonus - as I love learning more about that. The story itself is suspenseful, with a lot of action that keeps the pages constantly turning.

From the very first page, The Tempering is captivating, and will hold that intrigue until the very ending. I am very excited to read more of the series, especially with the fast-paced, exciting cliff-hanger of an ending. I highly recommend The Tempering, especially to fans of paranormal.

Bernadette says

This was a free book and was a good introduction to this author. I'm not too keen on the author's style of writing and I struggled somewhat until about half way through the book because I didn't know where the story was going to take us.

Mackenzie is a student at Harvard and when walking through the park alone one night, she is attacked by a lone wolf. She manages to survive the attack and make her way home where she is taken ill because of the werewolf virus and sleeps for 2 days through the transition. When she awakes and discovers her new strengths, she decides that she needs to leave college and to get as far away from humans as possible. Whilst fleeing she stops at a bed and breakfast where she meets Margaret, Geoff and Analise. It turns out that the three of them are werewolves and Margaret is a pack leader who invites Mackenzie to join her pack. Unlike many other werewolf stories, Margaret's pack is split between three sites.... Montana, California and Alaska. Whilst living at the pack house in Montana, Mackenzie learns all about being a werewolf but it becomes clear from the start that despite being a 'bitten' wolf, Mackenzie has a speed that means she can easily outrun a 'born' wolf. She also manages to retain some of her human memories whilst in wolf form very early on and that makes her of particular interest to Margaret. During her time with the pack, Mackenzie quickly forms an attachment to Geoff and he 'seems' to return the feelings but due to the hierarchy of pack laws, he is forbidden from beginning an intimate relationship with her.

During her 3rd cycle as a wolf, Mackenzie attacks a lone camper, Liam, but unlike her previous cycles, she doesn't kill him in the attack..... he does however turn instead. Mackenzie nurses him through his transition and when he regains consciousness, he flees the pack house believing them all to be insane. After his increased strength results in him accidentally hurting his younger brother, Liam returns to the pack house with his tail between his legs metaphorically speaking. He spends most of his time with Geoff learning about the way of the werewolf and although he befriends everyone in the pack house, he refuses point blank to acknowledge the existence of Mackenzie let alone speak to her. All that changes however after his first cycle and he learns that the human has no control over the wolf. From then on in, he and Mackenzie slowly get to

know one another and as it's a romantic suspense story, they develop romantic feelings for one another leading to a love triangle.

As there's three books in the series, the romance can go either way especially a book one has concentrated on Mackenzie, Geoff and Liam coming together. The suspense stems from the discovery of who Margaret really is and what her plans are not only for her pack but for all the werewolf packs. Despite the editing and proof reading issues, the story was enjoyable and it has piqued my interest enough for me to read book 2 to see where the story goes.

Sammyd says

WOW!!! could not put it down in the end... slow start in the beginning but quickly got to the really juicy bits in the middle and end, love Liam but you know the nice guy never wins cant wait to read book 2... great start on this new werewolf series.

Bobbi says

I was gifted this book for an honest review...

First off I have never read a book that made me want to go back to college to study mythology more than this book did. This book captured and held my interest and excitement from the very first chapter. I believe I learned more about lycanthropy through this author's book than any other book or movie. Following Mackenzie Duncan from the first bite and watching her learn and become more powerful with every turn was so exciting and emotional all at the same time. I would definitely recommend all readers that love Werewolves to grab a copy of this book and dive in. This is definitely a want more series. Can't wait to see what happens next.

Victor says

Received this book through a Goodreads giveaway.

Brief impressions: Pretty quick read, doesn't require too much brainpower to figure out what's going on and stay involved with the plot. The whole idea of the werewolves in the book is a pretty classic one as well - the author doesn't try to insert some arbitrary, unreasonable 'restrictions' into the classic werewolf myth which I appreciated. Healthy dose of both action (to some degree gore as well) and romance - I personally thought this was well balanced. Protagonist is generally believable although at times her wavering between the two main male characters can get irritating. Main detractor of the book is that I noticed spelling/grammatical errors throughout the book that actively took away from my experience - use of "to" and not "too" or "barley" instead of "barely," etc. Four stars for a quick enjoyable read and I will be reading the next book in the series.

Meigan says

This was an OK start to what seems like it may become an interesting series. Unfortunately, being the first book, it had its rough moments.

Mackenzie Duncan is a student at Harvard who finds herself the victim of an unfortunate (and unheard of, to her) accident. She is attacked while walking home from a football game and the events that follow leave her in a state of both panic and shock. Turns out, she was attacked by a werewolf. Being a student of mythology, she knows all about lycanthropes. She also thought they were strictly fictional. Mackenzie now needs to change her current lifestyle to favor her newly formed wolf-side. Luckily, she finds a group of people perfectly suited to helping her make her way.

One of my main problems with this book was a good portion read like a lesson in werewolf mythology. Anyone who has read a good number of werewolf books gets the gist, as most books follow the same patterns - weres are either born or made/bitten. This book followed the same train of thought, and was rather repetitive in that aspect. I realize that this book is the precursor to ones that follow, being the series starter, but there was a decided lack of action and anything 'happening' because of the in-depth telling about werewolves.

Another kind of off-putting aspect was the fact that Mackenzie was 19. I don't read YA or NA, simply because there is a lack of connection between myself and a main character who is over a decade younger. Not the author's fault by any means, it's just a personal choice. It didn't impact the book in a negative manner, but I can't relate, and that always pulls me out of the story. I also didn't like the direction that the author chose to go with the relationship between Mack and Geoff as soon as Liam was introduced. It wasn't a smooth transition, it was a bumpy rejection that the author seemed to use in order to create the ever-present love triangle that runs rampant in this genre. I loathe love triangles and the subsequent "Team XXX, all the way!!!", that follows books with a love triangle.

All that aside, I found myself enjoying parts of the story despite the things I disliked about it. I liked Mackenzie for the most part, she adapted easily for being so young. I also liked her new 'family', especially Margret, and how supportive and strong they were. I can't say I'm interested enough to follow the series, but I will definitely keep it in mind if I ever run out of things to read.

**I received this eARC on behalf of the publisher/author via NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion and review.

Sarah says

Honest review ARC copy

I really liked this book. I have to say it's rare to find a book where the leading woman isn't whiny and broken. This definitely isn't that book, you get to see it within the first few pages.

There are definitely some twists that you didn't see coming towards the end, and a triangle that's for sure (I'm rooting for Liam). Turns out there is a little royal intrigue as well. I can't wait to see what happens in the series, especially with the way it ended.

Vicki says

The Tempering is amazing and completely addicting! It only took me a couple of hours to read. From the very first page I was carried away into the (new-to-me) world of werewolves. I was not let down and cannot wait to read more about them! I am now a huge fan of Adrienne James and her books. Adrienne is able to captivate her readers with her amazing character, plot and scenery descriptions. She makes her reader feel the emotions and turmoil that swirl through her characters at any given minute and the roller coaster ride of love, grief, sense of family and belonging is worth every second of your time. I loved Mackenzie! She is a very strong willed and beautiful girl who would never let anyone tell her she could not or would not make anything of herself and her life. I truly believe she will make a name for herself in this new found family and world... I am so excited for the next book, I cannot wait to read on! Thank you so much Adrienne for a wonderful book and your amazing writing talent!

Claire says

Interesting.

Mackenzie is our girl that we're following for the book.

We witness a small piece of her before she is brutally bitten in a park late at night.

A unique take on how Were's are turned and the turning process and the rules between born and bitten. Mack (as she becomes to be known in the California Pack that take her in) still dreads her Wolf night as she can't remember it, and has done more than kill just an animal. She does actually turn someone on one of her early cycles and is horrified and riddled with guilt. She tries to be the "sire" that she was denied as the wolf ran off and left her to it.

Between her and Geoff there is an instant connection, which is constantly denied to Mack, but not for the reasons she thinks.

A bit of a twist at the end, leading nicely into the next book with Mack taking a very different path than she thought she would be when she thought she found her home with Margaret and the others.....

Reviewed on behalf of "Mark My Words" publicity tour for an honest review

April Wood says

Mackenzie Duncan is a freshman at Harvard University studying mythology & folklore, and seemingly off to a great start. That is until on the way home from a football game when she is attacked by a wolf. From that day forward, Mackenzie's life is never the same again...

She loses her job, drops out of a prestigious university, and starts to develop strange symptoms. Mackenzie has become a werewolf.

She runs away, afraid of what she has become, and afraid to hurt the ones around her. In her travels she meets a new family, who have all the answers and swear to protect her. Among the family, a man named Geoff, who makes her feel safer than she had since before her world was turned upside down.

But Mackenzie is unable to control her instincts, and soon the bitten becomes the biter, and she sires a man named Liam.

Now Mackenzie is caught within a love triangle, and she has to make the choice between Geoff and Liam.

This was my first werewolf romance, and it was certainly a nice change of pace! Introducing Liam into the story was a twist I did not expect. I'm torn as to who I want to see Mackenzie with. I'm very curious to see where Adrienne James will take her readers with that. I loved the drama between Mackenzie, Geoff, and Liam and hope it continues into the next story. All of the werewolf politics were a nice added touch.

The Tempering by Adrienne James blew me away. 5 stars!

***I received an E-Copy of this book from the Author's publicist for a fair & honest review.

Laveda Kasch says

Mackenzie Duncan is a Harvard student majoring in paranormal mythology. No real relationship with her parents, father in prison and mother she's not on speaking terms with, she works hard to pay for school and tries her best to keep her grades up. Mackenzie is a little spitfire right from the beginning. She gets into a heated argument with one of the schools "final club" boys at the football game and leaves alone soon after. On her way back to her apartment she cuts through the wooded park in hopes to avoid the parting college students that are hanging out on the street. Her life is forever changed by that one choice, as she is attacked by a wolf. She gets away and is left bleeding and scared, only to watch in horror as her mangled arm knits itself back together. She finally reaches home and is instantly out. Sick and sore the next day, she calls into work and falls asleep on the bathroom floor, for two days. She is noticing changes in her body, healing after being cut, super strength, great hearing, crazy temper and she grew two inches and thinned up over night. The most noticeable change was her eye color, her eyes going from blue to yellowish-green. She sees a doctor and an eye doctor, trying to figure out what the hell is going on with her body, but they find nothing wrong with her. Finally something tells her to look at it a different way, so she looks into mythology. What she finds explains everything that is happening to her...she's a werewolf! She doesn't want to believe it, but she is scared to take the chance on being wrong and hurting someone. Before the full moon she goes deep into the woods, as not to hurt anyone if she was to change, and she does change. She doesn't remember anything after the change and wakes up naked, bloody and surrounded by destruction. She is so mortified by her actions, even though she had no control or memories of it, that she decides to drop out of school and leave town. Thankfully by the next cycle she meets up with a group that is not only like her, but can help her learn to deal. Can These people help her?

This is the first book in the Mackenzie Duncan series and I very much enjoyed Adrianne James' unique version of werewolves. Great characters, action, adventure and great beginnings of a crazy love triangle (oh yes!) Geoff and Liam. Geoff is a very powerful wolf who has helped Mackenzie through some of her hiccups as a new pup, and Liam... Well, we won't spoil it for you, you'll just have to read this amazing story to find out. Follow along as Mackenzie learns to deal with and control her new self. It's a bumpy ride for sure, but a great one in my opinion. I loved it and recommend it to anyone who loves a good paranormal book, suitable for young adults as well. I give *The Tempering* 5 stars

✿kawehi.reviews says

To be honest, I feel a little lost in limbo on this one. I really wanted to love it book but I just couldn't. I think a lot of it had to do with the writing and plot line. I know that a lot of readers who've read this will be like, "what's wrong with her?!" and it is really more of a taste of preference of sorts. What I feel is simply, the plot, the story line, and the way that everything was crafted wasn't my cup of tea. It was in no means bad but rather not something that held my attention the entire way.

I probably will read the sequel, *The Enlightenment*, just for the heck of seeing what happens next but I don't know... I'm completely on the fence on this one...
