



The Duality Paradigm

Lia Cooper

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Everyone knows magic users and werewolves are intrinsically diametrically opposed...

Seattle Police Detective Ethan Ellison, born into a long line of Quebecois magicians, leads a fairly unassuming life working Theft and consulting on magical misdemeanors. He's spent eight years building a life for himself in Seattle, far from his father's shadow. He works hard, lives under the radar, and fucks whoever catches his eye.

Detective Patrick Clanahan, beta-heir to Pack McClanahan, is a tightly wired bundle of rage and guilt, still trying to come to terms with the murder of his last partner.

When a human woman is murdered in werewolf territory under suspicious circumstances, Ethan is reassigned to work the case with Clanahan in the hopes that he'll be able to balance out the wolf's rougher edges.

Too bad they mostly just rub each other the wrong way.

This is the first of three books in the Blood & Bone Trilogy.

DISCLAIMER This work contains language and sexual content that may not be suitable for readers under 18. This work contains sexual MALE/MALE content. Not your cup of tea? Don't read it. Otherwise, please enjoy.

The Duality Paradigm Details

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From Reader Review The Duality Paradigm for online ebook

Brooklyn says

WARNING: This book does not have a HEA. You must keep reading the trilogy. I'm so glad I have KU and am able to grab book 2 straight away. I love how Patrick and Ethan are coming together in this series.

Lizzy says

3.5 stars

Fun and great read. It was a good detective romance story. And an unusually and unique take on the paranormal world. The thing I really disliked was that the editor did an horrible job. There were so many spelling mistakes and it was a bit confusing at times. But it was still that good that I will read the rest of the series!

Vivian says

Could have been, would have been, should have been...

Could have been a compelling supernatural cop story, but it floundered and then just bailed at the end.

Would have been a satisfying romance, but like an elephant in the room, no one is talking about it.

Should have been edited better. There are multiple transposed words that spell check would not catch, but tripped up the reader: scull for skull, what for white, etc and the ending saw an unfortunate increase which just stymied the climatic moment. And while I'm not a Nazi grammarian there are also some egregious comma and apostrophe errors.

This is clearly the start of a series, but I just wasn't sold on Ethan and Pat enough to want to carry on.

Furio says

This author clearly has real talent as this M/M mystery novella managed to keep my interest despite its flaws. Writing is very fluid; plot is simple but well developed and the urban-fantasy setting is rich in interesting details.

The first problem is the annoying number of typos and mistakes and that they tend to become more and more numerous as the work nears its end. Some of them are disrupting and forced me to reread various sentences. Characterization betrays the author's lack of experience: characters are meant to evolve, of course, but Pat is often unreasonably stiff while Ethan appears outright childish and immature when he is meant to show the frailty due to the abuse he has suffered.

Narrative tension suffers because of this. The lack of honest communication between the leads is also ill managed and not really well motivated.

Problems aside, this is the first instalment in what promises to be an interesting series of three. Volume two is already available but perhaps a little overpriced.

Borderstar says

This had a lot of promise as the start of a series/trilogy and there were certain aspects I really liked. But there were also quite a few things that didn't really work for me, so 3 stars overall.

I was quite keen to read the next one when I finished this...but having read reviews for book 2 I'm a bit wary...I may just leave it at this?

Full review to follow soon.

Matthew says

It was honestly a good story however the editing is absolutely atrocious and this makes for a confusing read at times. My hope is the author either hires an editor or takes more time to edit her work more thoroughly.

Line says

Uuuuuuhhhmmmmmm, yeah, I have been going back and forth between 2 and 3 stars for this one, but ended up at 2 to stay true to my other ratings.

I have been slow in jotting down some words about the last few books I've read, therefore this review is written with reservation to my scatterbrain and what I remember feeling, when I put down the book.

So Ethan is a... Complex character and a bit of a man-whore (said with the utmost respect; I have nothing against man-whores, we should all be free to bone as many people as we want, if it's not hurting anyone!) But Ethan's man-whore status and his general surliness and disregard for the rules in relation to the wolves put me off.

It's not that he doesn't have his reasons, for being kind of douche though. Ethan's background is tragic, in the sense that his family is old and powerful (and ABUSIVE), but he never showed any magic abilities, and they made him pay for that...

Also his ex-boyfriend gave me the creeps, and it annoyed me A LOT, that Ethan (the 'hardcore', 'independent', 'I-can-do-what-I-want-dude') did not KICK the ex out or kick his ass or fucking stood up to him, instead of just FUCKING him!

It was essentially a disconnect between Ethan's description and his actions, which ruined it for me.

Patrick was okay, and I liked his family, but there was just something that didn't work for me overall. Lastly this story does NOT have a HEA or even a HFN! Apparently you have to read 2 more books to get some sort of happy ending, and in the second book Ethan is in a relationship with some girl, while 'pining'

after Patrick, while having sex with this girl?!?!?!? (view spoiler)

There were a few humorous moments and the mystery was okay; I didn't have a clue where it was going. But when one of the MC's are not likeable and you don't even have a HFN to look forward to, it is a drag.

So yeah, I'm leaving this book and the series here.

Adrianamae, Marco's fan says

2.5 rating

This is a start of what could be a good series, but between the amateur writing, the editing issues and plot holes, it was not satisfying. Nevertheless, this book has a ridiculous low price and I'm very glad that I got to read it. I will definitely read the next book in the series.

MLE says

I really enjoyed this book. The mythology of werewolves and magicians was interesting, and well developed, and I like how it played into the plot of the story. The characters felt like full fledged people, and I liked the balance between them. Patrick could be a bit protective of Ethan, but Ethan wasn't cowed by this and it never felt like Patrick was trying to own or control Ethan. I liked the mystery, and the resolution felt complex, and complete. While there are unresolved issues this felt like a complete book, and did not end off on a unsatisfactory cliffhanger. Not perfect, but a great book to read in the hammock at camp.

Mandapanda says

Solid m/m urban fantasy by a new author. The introduction is great. Totally snared my attention and made me want to read on. Here's part of it:

The magically inclined tend to share a common, and disastrous, personality profile: narcissistic, self-absorbed and forgetful. And if you think they make terrible spouses, then the truth is, they make even worse mates. This is something every wolfcub knows, in his blood.

In his bones.

Luckily the book mostly lives up to its promise. Like all urban fantasy this is the first book in a series. There's a complete story arc although the romance between the two MC's is only just starting and I'm presuming this will continue to develop over several books. This is a full-length novel and the mystery plot, although not really new or original, is sufficiently exciting. The dynamic between Ellison and Clanahan is excellent. I love UF so this storytelling style is right up my alley.

Unfortunately there are a fair few typos. Why would the author let her book be stuffed up by something so simple and easily rectifiable?? Microsoft Word is not sufficient to edit your books SPA's!!

Lisa The Novel Approach says

4.5 Stars

With a little bit of magic, a little bit of murder, and a whole lot of mystery, author Lia Cooper has written her way onto the M/M scene as someone I'm not only excited to see here but am also excited to see much more from. Hopefully in the very near future, as she draws us further in to the world she's imagined.

Full review can be found at The Novel Approach.

Rosa, really says

The magically inclined tend to share a common, and disastrous, personality profile: narcissistic, self-absorbed and forgetful. And if you think they make terrible spouses, then the truth is, they make even worse mates. This is something every wolfcub knows, in his blood. In his bones.

That is a great start to this paranormal police procedural. It nicely sums up the whole novel, and I would guess, the trilogy -- though we'll have to wait until at least the next book is published before that's proven. :- P I hate waiting.

However, as this book hit upon a lot of my favorite tropes, the sequel is well worth the wait.

Cops in general? ✓

A cop buddy/romance with opposites attracting? ✓

Are these cops new partners with diametrically opposed lives & personalities? ✓

Do the cops have more in common than they might think? ✓

Am I using the word "cop" too much? ✓

Is there an undisciplined, arrogant, isolated, somewhat rebellious MC with a painful history? ✓

Is his name Ethan and is he a magic user? ✓

Is there a loyal, tireless, moody MC with a loving family, who's just lost his police partner? ✓

Would his name perhaps be Patrick and is he a werewolf? ✓

Does it take place in the Pacific Northwest (Seattle)? ✓

Will this list ever end? ✓

Though I really enjoyed this book, I did find a few faults that could be improved:

The editing: needs a good line editor. Or an additional line editor. However, I did enjoy the book enough that it wasn't too annoying, although I feel it's worth a mention.

Repeats scenes with different viewpoints: There are three scenes in this novel where the author portrays a scene from Ethan's POV (or Pat's), and then repeats the exact same scene from Pat's POV (or Ethan's). As a reader, I start to get bored & skim when this happens (and it's why I never got passed the 3rd chapter in Tinnear's Houseboat on the Nile.) I prefer it when a scene is told from one POV & then in the next scene, or

a later scene, the other MC explains his feelings or actions.

Switches POVs within a scene: I think this is very difficult to do well for any author.

What I do like is Cooper's world building and her creation of the sociology of the magic users & the werewolves (especially the latter). But what I really admire about the writing is the author's ability to create a character-driven story arc that should last over the three books in the trilogy. Cooper's created two characters whose inner & outer difficulties (if that's what you call it) cause all sorts of complications for themselves & each other. Both Ethan & Pat have issues that keep them apart, however these issues won't just disappear with a kiss or a fuck or a good conversation. They'll have to do a lot of growing over the course of the trilogy for that to happen. (And please, Ms. Cooper, tell me that happens.)

Warning for readers #1: one of the characters, Ethan, does sleep with 2 men that are not Pat, the other MC (not at the same time, though). I don't mind this, but if you're in the "once he meets his main love interest, there shall be no other penises after him" group, this book may not be for you.

Warning for readers #2: Several readers have mentioned that this book ends in a cliffhanger – I don't really agree with that. It doesn't end in an HEA, but neither does it leave off in the middle of a suspenseful scene. As I said, this is the first of three novels, so a lot of questions remain unanswered at the end of this book.

Anyway, I recommend this book and I expect only good stuff from its author in the future.

According to Lia Cooper's website *The Convergence Theory* (*Blood & Bone Book 2*) should be out in Fall 2014 and *Blood & Bone Book 3* should be out sometime after that.

Andrea says

I want more - just bought the second book but I need the last one right now. This is great - murder mystery, mages, shifters, romance ... can't ask for much more.

The books should be read in order because this one ended with the personal relationship unresolved but the murder was solved so it's definitely not a cliffhanger.

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

3 disappointing stars

When I have a lot to say, like I do about this book, it's easiest for me to give a quick summary and then just type out my notes, which turned out to be a LOT. The book was in many ways fabulous, and I was really excited about the series. Thrillers are my favorite genre because I love all that melodrama and action, and set in Seattle? Just drop me somewhere quiet and comfortable and I won't even know you're gone.

But I was pretty upset by the careless inconsistencies and blatantly wrong things about Seattle and the word

choices that were not even American. Some may think it doesn't matter, but it does. It's saying that where the story is taking place doesn't matter and that random things about that place are thrown in because they're just sort of familiar and not important in and of themselves, and that the people who know the difference--in this case the 1.5 million in the greater Seattle area with a huge base of M/M readers and writers--don't matter either. Just make it in a fictitious city if you don't want to take the trouble to look at a map or verify the name of an internationally known landmark.

In my last story (under my pen name), I set the book in an area where I've been, on a tiny island I made up, and yet spent hours and hours researching the area including climate, monthly temperature and weather extremes, cultural make up, tourism, industry, and I even looked at tide maps for the area to make sure the experience was authentic and not just what I remembered. Although I made up the island, I came up with an exact place I thought the island would have to be based on trade and tourist routes and proximity to the nearest town and other islands. I don't know if I'm a good writer, but I'm a good researcher and the likelihood of someone's belief not being suspended because of that kind of stuff in one of my stories is, I believe, relatively small. Hopefully I'm not deluded. I feel I owe anyone who's honoring me by taking the time to read my stuff as much authenticity as I can provide. (One reason I use a pen name is so people don't use my lazy and horribly opinionated and egotistical review writing to ascertain whether my stories would be worth reading. :))

It's sad because the author is very talented and I really would have loved this book if it were not for these editing/proof reading/fact checking issues. Oh, and the ending--don't get me started there. But the peril, the action, the danger, the mystery, the characters, the depth--I loved it all. Just the other problems ruined it for me.

Here are my notes:

This has really good police procedure which is nice.

Sweet sex scene for a one night stand. I like the other guy a lot. Too bad he's not the other MC. Hopefully the second MC will turn out to be even nicer than he is so far.

Great OMG/peril/worry/empathy/tender moments early on.

Who puts their hair up in a rubber band? Ouch! Or is that what people in other countries call hair ties?

The mystery is good. The pet collars are baffling. Didn't figure out the gist of the mystery until 3/4ths of the way into the book and even then there were still pieces puzzling me.

Seriously named a character Jim Jones.

Was going fine with just showing, then suddenly 2/5ths of the way through, started telling about their pasts.

I think I would love this book if someone had fact-checked it then copy edited it.

I liked this quote:

Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore."

Why would you use an espresso machine to make caramel espresso, make a "perfect ratio of espresso body to crema," and then add half and half?

I'm not even going to go into the bizarre and physically impossible way they got to Magnolia from the Market which are nowhere near each other. In the last book I read (not by this author), I complained that the author used a map too much, saying street names for every turn the characters made. I wish that this author had used a map to connect the various locations she heard of rather than just guessing.

I feel like she does that a lot--guessing. "This sounds right so I'll say it and I won't bother to make sure it makes sense," and "I saw a picture of the Post-Intelligencer globe in a current picture of Seattle. So I'll just use it and not bother to look it up to see that it is considered an historical landmark so when the PI went out of business, the globe was kept, and not assume there is still a Seattle P.I.," and, "I think this word is right, it sounds right, so I'll use it and not worry that I have the right definition."

I hate how much graphic sex Ethan is having with other men. I'm on page 128 out of 283 and he's about to have sex with Christophe yet again. He hasn't even really thought about the other MC romantically or sexually yet.

Female alphas! Awesome! Definitely not a sexist book.

No condoms between the MCs. No explanation. Yes it's standard paranormal fare that shifters don't get human diseases, but this is a new universe and it has its own take. It should be mentioned if that's why they're not using protection.

Great peril including a lovely hospital scene, but Pat's fear and stress are less than I wanted. Mainly it's inconsistent. He is panicky and then he carries on a normal conversation with his police captain about the case.

I really like this take on wolves' soul mates--that it isn't set by fate but it isn't like humans either; the inner wolf chooses and only chooses once.

LOL, almost every Starbucks in the Seattle area have drive-thrus. Not all, but close. Is that true everywhere or is it just because they are ours--we are their roots? I mean they're freakin' everywhere. There's a place near me that has two at the same intersection, no lie. (One standalone, the other in a grocery store across the street.)

This is getting really sweet and adorable.

There's a lot of "the other man," "the Mage," "the Wolf" kind of stuff to describe the other MC which is so distancing, like "Pat moved towards the mage and reached for him but then the wolf stepped back before they actually touched." (I totally made that terrible sentence up, but you get the point. This is an example of my lazy review writing and hopefully does not reflect my own writing abilities...)

There were lots of editing issues, especially when it came to tenses, sometimes launching into present tense for no reason. Some of the editing issues (not actual spoilers, just visually reducing size of review):
(view spoiler)

The location issues drove me batty. It was like the book couldn't decide if it was set in the US, Canada, or Britain. It also felt like for realism and hipness (well at least I think Seattle is hip) some random city name was chosen, and then random neighborhood names were found from that city, and a landmark found to use and then all of that was just inserted randomly with no regard to true reality rather than a semblance thereof for readers unfamiliar with Seattle. (Hoo boy, good thing you don't know my pen name. That sentence was TERRIBLE.)

I appreciate trying to inject realism, but I'd rather not have it at all than for it to be wrong. If I were to set something in a place I hadn't lived, I would make sure I had a beta reader who knew the place intimately, and if I couldn't find one, I would research it until I could write a brochure and draw a detailed map about the area. (The piece I wrote that I mentioned above takes place in a very remote area with a tiny population. I had to go the research-only option. The upside is that there are very few people I could offend...)

Seattle/US issues (not spoilers, just visually reducing size of review):
(view spoiler)

Here is where she finally says something right about Seattle. This is the Seattle I know, the city I love.

He'd spent eight years learning the twists and turns of living here, how it was a major metropolis and unlike any other major city he's ever visited at the same time. The pomp and flash of Seattle is hidden beneath clean energy, shiny espresso joints and gleaming tech stores. Designer clothes rubbed elbows with second hand treasures on the same body and there was no scene but the underground scene. People walked and biked places, not because they had to, not just because it was impossible to keep a car in the city, but because it was environmentally friendly and other things like Good For You....It was a city that hit it big in the tech boom without letting it go to their heads, who never bent beneath the glitz and glitter of gouache [sic] consumerism.*

**Note the typical tense and wrong word errors in this small section. I cut and pasted it from the ebook.*

The tech boom has made a much bigger divide between the haves and the have nots so it's had it's negative effects but the gist of this is right.

How'd he have time to strip and shift if (view spoiler)?

Despite all the editing and location errors, it's mostly well written. There are a couple of places where I can't picture what she's trying to describe but mostly it's good.

Cool that the author described what biting the guy tasted like. You never hear that unless it's about the MCs biting one another, but if anyone bites someone, there's going to be flavor whether good or bad.

Oh hell no--what kind of evil cliffhanger ending was that? They solved the mystery and nothing else. The relationship stuff is unnecessarily hanging. Ridiculous! I am really upset. And I don't think I'm reading the next ones, either, because in book 2, the MCs spend half the book apart and (view spoiler). The third book has a twist that is so disturbing, I think I'd want to hurl even (view spoiler).

+5 stars story, mystery, and plot

-2 for editing problems

-3 for Seattle and US terminology and info errors. (There is just no excuse for that level of error and lack of fact checking)

+5 stars for entertainment

-2 for ending

3 stars...that feels too low but anything higher feels like it's not reflecting how frustrated I was...

DaisyGirl says

4.0 Stars

In a world where magic users and werewolves are intrinsically diametrically opposed, Seattle Police Detectives Ethan Ellison and Patrick Clanahan seem like a total mismatch. But they work. In this exciting start to a PNR police crime series, I was taken by both MCs. Ethan is unapologetically slutty and Patrick is

unapologetically wolf-ish. I loved them. I was worried at times that Ethan's character would turn me off (and he came close) but he just scraped by.

Bottom line: Wonderful start! Moving on to book 2.
