



Deceiving the Protector

Dee Tenorio

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The mate he never wanted may be the woman he can never have....

After a series of murders is discovered along the trail of the Shifter Underground, wolf soldier Jensen Tate is assigned to find and protect a missing stray. But Lia Crawford doesn't seem to want his protection. When she eludes his watch and returns with mysterious injuries, Tate knows she's hiding something. To discover her secrets, he'll have to win her trust....and get closer to the woman he thinks may be his mate.

Lia has reasons to keep her distance. The killer is haunting her steps, determined to claim her. He will come after them both if he sees how drawn she is to Tate, though it becomes increasingly difficult to deny her attraction to him. Protecting Tate is vital - but will her deception cost her his love?

Deceiving the Protector Details

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From Reader Review Deceiving the Protector for online ebook

Tracy says

Great World and Characters

His kind have been hunted since humans became aware of their existence. Jensen Tate is a lawyer in their world but among his own kind, he's the alpha's brother and second, a wolf shifter and protector of his people. With shifter numbers decimated by federally funded death squads, and entire cultures wiped out as packs were destroyed, the Shifter Underground has stood as a beacon of hope and a trail to safety for strays everywhere. A dangerous road, maybe, but one that leads them to sanctuary. To Resurrection.

But evidence is pointing towards a grim truth. The Underground has been breached and a serial killer is slaughtering shifters along its carefully guarded trail of safe houses. Tate doesn't know who is responsible, but the Sibile has sent him out to track and help a stray to a safe house. The oracle is convinced that guarding her will lead to some nebulous treasure. Problem is, the stray Lia Crawford wants nothing to do with Tate or his protection, obviously doesn't trust him, and isn't afraid to go nose to snarling nose with him when he tries to convince her to do just that.

Lia's got a good reason to keep Tate at arm's length, several of them, in fact, not the least of which is the attraction she feels for him. That alone could see him dead. If Tate ever discovers the darkest of Lia's secrets and the cost she's paid to keep them, more than just Tate's life will be forfeit. The longer she spends in his company, the closer they become, the more determined Lia is to protect the protector. But with a serial killer tracking them and the government hunting them, *safe* is a luxury neither Lia or Tate have, and *sacrifice* may be the only option left.

I'm always a little hesitant to read a series book if I haven't read the books preceding it. And...uh...by hesitant I mean I usually avoid it like a vamp avoids sunlight. It upsets my completely anal retentive, OCD-esque linear mentality to embarrassing degrees and often makes it difficult for me to connect to the story. Not only that, but it's not uncommon to have books that just don't read well at all unless you've read the preceding books in the series. Despite that hesitancy, as I haven't read the first book in the Resurrection series, Tempting the Enemy, I thought I'd give this one a try. I figured if I went into it expecting to have some issues with this book, those issues wouldn't be such a big deal. Plus it's a paranormal romance, and that's a favorite subgenre of mine, so I was tempted into risking it after reading the story brief.

Wow, I'm so glad I did!

I loved the world Tenorio's created here. It made so much sense! Don't get me wrong, I'm all for the willing suspension of disbelief, but come on, we live in a time when a gay man could still be a victim of a hate crime for who he loves, an African American man still faces discrimination because of the color of his skin, and a Muslim man is persecuted because of his religious beliefs. Not that much of a stretch to figure a *wolf* man would be hunted to extinction and/or prostituted by science for the good of 'National Security' if he was discovered to exist. Not a whole lotta willing suspension of disbelief needed to buy into that ugly version of reality.

In that regard, while not pretty, Tenorio's world just flat-out worked for me. And it didn't stop there. I absolutely adored her mythos on wolf shifters as it was explained here. It had such a refreshing and unique logic to it all (within the parameters of the paranormal, anyway), and there were some details provided that made me giddy as I was reading. Little things like how shifting doesn't magically heal major wounds, and

could, in fact, make them worse as organs and tissue move around inside during a shift. Or how males can be slavering beasts around females going through a heat cycle, and there are some nasty consequences to females because of it. Wow - that's not only understandable, but it's a biological reality for canine species. On the flip side, it is the female who ultimately chooses a mate and the male is bound by that choice. Loved that.

In fact, there was much about the world and mythos that I adored.

And the love didn't stop there. Tate was a great lead character and Lia was just the sort of female character I most admire. Strong, self sufficient, and resilient, as the stuff she'd endured earned my ultimate respect. I thought she was wonderful. The chemistry between the two characters was solid, and this book had one of the most impressive sex scenes I've read in romance lately. Tenorio struck a perfect balance between emotional intensity and physical intimacy, and worked in a few threads of humor to keep it consistent with the characters personalities and with the development of the storyline to that point. Phenomenally well done.

I did have some issues that I felt were less well done, some points that didn't go over as well as the stuff that did, and I should probably at least brush over them. The non-relationship story elements, the external conflict of the book, was a little two dimensional and simple, and was told in a very straightforward manner that didn't allow for a lot of ancillary development or many secondary characters. While the secondary characters we did meet were fine, they were few and far between and didn't see much page time. This book is almost exclusively a two wolf shifter story, that of Lia and Tate.

That actually plays into another concern I had while reading. The focus of the book was very narrow. Beyond a flashback or two and an epilogue, the time frame for the entire book is just a couple of days, so the story ended up feeling a bit more like a snapshot of the road trip from hell than a fully developed and self-contained book. I would have preferred a bit more flesh on the bones of the story and a broader view given to some of the elements in it. Though I loved the evolution of the relationship between Lia and Tate, the rest of the book didn't offer quite enough exposition or explanation of what led up to Tate going after Lia and how Lia got there to begin with. I would have liked to have found out what exactly Lia's role has been for the two years she'd been out of captivity. Given the pretty horrific casualties, a better explanation of how she fit into the master plan would have been helpful.

There was also a plot hole concerning Lia's scarf that niggled at me as the book ended. (view spoiler)

Whatever my issues, though, they were minor in the grand scheme, and while I think I would have appreciated reading the first book, and think it would have enhanced my understanding of the backstory in this one, I don't think it affected my reading enjoyment too much. Tenorio has created a world I completely admire, mythos that I find refreshing and unique, and characters I easily fell for. This book may lack a little of the complexity of plot found in some the books of some of my favorite paranormal romance authors, but what it does provide is well written and emotionally satisfying, and it has some aspects that set it apart and make it memorable. Now I just have to grab a copy of *Tempting the Enemy* before the next book in the series comes out. It's that whole anal retentive/OCD thing. Must. Read. From the beginning. In order.

Yeah, I'm a freak. I know.

Disclosure: An ARC was provided to me by Carina Press via NetGalley. This rating, review, and all included thoughts and comments are my own.

~*~*~*~

Reviewed for One Good Book Deserves Another.

Leyns says

Good read.

I enjoyed this. The characters were written well and I liked the world building. I wish there were more books in the series, because I'd like to know what happens next.

Erth says

now i am hooked. This was such a great, easy and creative book. i was hooked after the first page.

The characters were easy to fall in love with and follow, along with the story. the author made the mental visions so easy and vivid of the surroundings and the characters actions felt so real.

i would highly recommend this author and this book.

Christi Snow says

OMG, this book was so good!!! I will have the full review up soon. The book releases the 15th. Now I need to go and read Book #1 in this series, Tempting the Enemy...

Full review reposted from my Smitten with Reading blog.

My Review:

There are books that make me so happy that I am a book reviewer because I never would have found them otherwise. This is one of those books. This is book #2 in the Resurrection series. I have not read #1 (at the time of writing this review- by the time you read this, I can guarantee that has been remedied) but I got an offer of an ARC by the author, Dee Tenorio, so I jumped on it I am so glad that I did. This is another of those books that I can pretty much guarantee you is going to make my Top 10 list for 2011... such a good book!

Lia is a stray and Tate has come out to help protect her and to get her to safety because there is a serial killer that is targeting the Shifters in the area. What Tate doesn't realize is that Lia is well aware of the serial killer because he's her own personal stalker and murders anyone that shows her any kindness which means that Tate is next on his list of people to kill and chop up.

After years of torture and medical experimentation, Lia is trapped in her circumstances. She has lost all hope for herself, but contact with Tate has re-awakened that hope.

As with all shifters, Lia & Tate have an instant connection, but Lia knows that her connection to him simply threatens his life further. Tate is unwilling to let her go especially as he realizes that she is being hurt and is absolutely terrified. He can't stand by while anyone is being hurt, but add in his attraction to Lia, and there is

no way that she is going to get rid of him.

These are both extremely strong people, but Lia is... Wow, just incredible. Most people have died or gone insane after the treatments that she's had to endure, but she has never given in and never relented to the demands made of her regardless of the extra pain that meant she had to endure.

There were so many details to this story that made it really exceptional:

*the entire shifter world is really amazing. They are being hunted so Tate & his brother Pale (the alpha and hero from book #1, *Tempting the Enemy*) have set up a pack in California (*Resurrection*) as refuge.

*under high emotions, the wolf shifters' eyes change color to the wolfen golden yellow...very cool detail.

*Lia knows that she is never going to have a normal life, so she grabs whatever happiness she can with Tate. It's a heartbreakingly desperation.

*BOTH of these people are willing to do ANYthing to save the other.

*a fabulous cast of characters: Pale & Jade (couple from book #1, *Tempting the Enemy*) and Betha (who is so freaking funny with her comments and observations.) These are Tate's family and they love him even when he's driving them insane.

The entire book simply throbs with emotion. There is so much desperation and futility to Lia's circumstances. What Tate is willing to give up to help her...*sob*...just so gorgeous. The entire book reeks of action & suspense, passion & love, heartache & desperation, and it is ALL so good!! From the moment that I started it, I simply could not put it down. Now I am off to read book #1, *Tempting the Enemy*. If it is even half as good as this book, then I am up for a long night of happy reading.

Mara says

The structure was a bit too much like book one, even if apparently the plot seems to differ. It didn't shout read something else by this author. We'll see.

Carmel (Rabid Reads) says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

This is the second time this month that I've started a new series without having read the books that came before it. I hope I'm not developing a bad habit all of a sudden! Fortunately, I didn't feel lost while reading *Deceiving the Protector*; quite the contrary actually, I loved this book and am curious to know how this tale begins. I don't usually enjoy dystopia type scenarios but in this instance it works. The plotline of this novel offers an incredibly unique take on werewolves. There's also a lot of twists and turns that kept me guessing and made for a very gripping read.

I liked Tate and Lia's first meeting and the subsequent bond that formed between them. Lia is abrasive, secretive and one of the strongest willed characters that I've ever encountered. The crap that she's been through and survived is staggering. It'd be one thing if she was just being bombarded from one side but it's her very existence that's messed up. Lia's family was murdered, her sister was stolen from her, she was experimented on, forced into a mate bonding with a monster, and the list goes on! Running away isn't even

an option because the bad guys can always find her. Talk about hopeless! I was rooting for the tables to turn for Lia through this entire book. This poor girl hit rock bottom a long time ago, it's about time for her luck to change!

Enter Tate, the ray of light in Lia's dark universe. He has no idea what he's getting himself into. At first it looks like a regular mission but as the story progresses he learns that there's a lot more to his "assignment" than meets the eye. Tate plays the role of a knight in shining armor to a T. Stereotypical? Yes, but what girl doesn't love a good dose of masculine heroism every once in a while? Tate's also incredibly persistent and slowly manages to break through Lia's tough exterior. He's not forceful about it either; he uses his charm to weaken her defenses and his suavely manner is near impossible to resist. He starts by making her smile and goes from there. Aaww.

It's the storyline that truly did it for me in *Deceiving the Protector*. There's a palpable sense of fear that lingers in the air throughout this tale. You never know when the other shoe is about to drop. Lia's sad tale will have you rooting for something good to happen to her in no time. However, like most things, nothing is ever that easy. The pace of this novel won't leave you reeling but it does maintain a nice momentum that'll have you anxious to find out how it all ends. The wolfish life mate element also plays an important role in the development of this story. Dee Tenorio does a fantastic job of incorporating it by staying true to its foundations but without making things too predictable or mushy. I consider myself to be a pretty knowledgeable werewolf critic and I wasn't able to find any faults in the furrier aspects of this tale. Kudos for that!

The main characters from *Tempting the Enemy* do make appearances towards the end of this read but this book stands well enough on its own. Mind you, my curiosity is peaked after finishing this second installment and I feel the need to backtrack to the beginning of the *Resurrection* series. *Deceiving the Protector* is a madly enjoyable read with a good action to romance ratio; your heart will go from racing to jello many times over. Thanks for the great ride Dee Tenorio! I'll be making another trip into your *Resurrection* universe again sometime very soon.

Kristin says

Review originally posted at: <http://happilyeverafter-reads.blogspot.com>

In the world of the *Deceiving the Protector* (Resurrection Series #2), is the Shifter Underground, a cross country route dotted with safe houses along the way to Resurrection, a hidden shifter community in California that harbors shifters from the humans who want to eradicate them.

The book starts out with Jensen Tate, a wolf shifter on the search for a killer who has been targeting shifters along the Underground Trail, leaving body parts in its wake. While en route, Tate is ordered by his Alpha to escort Lia Crawford, an underweight, battered, and abused female shifter. As Tate tries to get to know Lia during their journey, she refuses to let him in, when every fiber of Tate's being tells him she might mean more to him than either of them realizes. Tate knows Lia is keeping something huge from him, and his protective instincts want to do nothing but keep her from harm.

Little to Tate's knowledge, Lia is being stalked at every turn by a shifter named Asher, who she keeps a secret from Tate at first, fearing for his life if she doesn't.

Asher is a character so demented and twisted, that his detailed descriptions every time he comes on page, don't seem human or shifter, but like something straight out of a horror movie. Asher definitely added a heightened state of suspense throughout the book, and reminded me why I love horror movies. Seems I like horror-like characters in books too!

I've always loved the shifter genre. Shifter heroes tend to be possessive and dominant, and when they find the one they know is their "mate" they stop at nothing to make her theirs, so I loved seeing that play out in this book. Tate is immediately drawn to Lia, and his protective instincts are always in full force. Let's just say the notoriously shifter word Mine is said a few times. Rawrrr!

The only problem I was having with this story through the first half, was that it's the kind of detail oriented book that I needed to be in the right frame of mind to start, and I wasn't, so I struggled to find the energy to read it as fast as I wanted to, and ended up taking almost a week to read it. Also, it's book 2 in a series, and it doesn't do a very good job of reiterating things from the first book that it should to make it capable of being a stand-alone, and so I found it difficult to connect with past characters who were given very little background, but were a big part of the plot. But that's not necessarily the authors fault, for all I know, she didn't intend for it to be a stand alone, and I'm just the idiot who requested it on Net Galley without reading the first book! So my suggestion would probably be to read book one first.

Regardless, once I broke past the first half of the book, and the action and romance began to amp up, I started to really get into it. The writing is well done, and the characters are interesting and certainly not lacking depth. I will definitely add book One to my TBR pile now.

MBR says

You know that uber satisfied feeling that you get when you have read a book that has managed to hit all those spots that crave to be petted and stroked when you immerse yourself in a good book? Well, at the moment I am like the cat who got her full bowl of cream and then some as the 2nd book in the Resurrection series managed to completely woo me and left me spellbound once again with Dee Tenorio's ability to blow me away with her stories.

Jensen Tate, brother to Alpha and one of the generals of the pack is tasked with the job of finding a female "stray" and bringing her to safety. A job that stirs up feelings that Tate has thought long since buried when he comes into contact with the half-starved, gritty, determined and surly Lia Crawford who seems to call out to the inner wolf inside of him to come out and stake its claim on the woman whose bewitching green eyes show remanents of a hidden fear so deep that it just about tears up Tate on the insides.

Lia knows that there is no turning back for her on the path she has chosen to walk and that neither is Tate supposed to be with her if what he and his brothers have worked so hard to bring about is to remain on course without the vicious hunters on her trail getting to them through her. For the safety of her sister Laurel, Lia is willing to do anything, even put up with the constant darkness that never seems to leave her life, always one step ahead, forcing her to accept the fact that she would never ever be a free woman of her own will.

Tate knows that Lia hides more than she is willing to let on and it drives him nuts trying to protect a woman whose sheer stubbornness alone makes him want to lay her down somewhere and make her forget the dead weight that she seems to carry on her shoulders. As Tate "forces" her to go along with his plans, Lia finds

herself charmed by a man beneath whose gruff exterior lies a wolf begging to be petted and stroked and a man whose rough tenderness just about breaks every wall and shield she has erected to safeguard her emotions & heart.

As their trek towards the next safe house continues, Tate comes face to face with the danger that stalks and preys on the absolute fear that it demands from Lia as he finally starts accepting the fact that Lia is his mate for life, if she can just trust him enough to protect her and save her from the evil that refuses to let go.

Deceiving the Protector is fantastic in all the ways that counts. The way Dee builds up her paranormal world, subtly bringing in the details in the midst of the character development is what drew me in. The constant whirl of my thinking cap trying to figure out what would happen next was what I loved most about this paranormal romantic suspense and the reality and horrors behind what Lia underwent at the hands of mad men willing to rid the world of shifters anyway they can just left me with a bad taste in my mouth and shivers of the bad kind running up and down my spine.

Jensen Tate is a hero that practically invaded my heart as layer by layer his character unfolds, revealing a man of immense strength and beauty, though being called beautiful might piss Tate off and make him growl a bit before settling down, but nevertheless that is how I find him to be. A man so worthy of tender touches and healing kisses, whose protective nature refuses to step back and let his mate be the protector instead, no matter how chauvinistic that might seem to be. The reason why I fell so deeply for Tate is how he manages to gently draw out the hidden woman inside of Lia who has been cowering inside, afraid to show herself and refuses to let her return back to the shell of a woman she was before. His charming manner of telling a good story of course had me sighing all over the place and of course nekkid Tate is a sight to savored on its own.

Lia is a heroine who finds the strength to go on against all odds, a woman who has been on her own for so long that she finds the concept of accepting help a foreign one. Nevertheless, her fascination with Tate that continues to grow as they spend time together is one that refuses to be denied, and the need and desire that unfurls deep within her to claim his wolf as hers is one that continues taunt and tease her until she is ready to serve herself to Tate on silver platter. It is Lia's immense courage and strength that awed me, and the way she perfectly complements Tate and knows how to soothe & appease the inner wolf inside of him and at the same time be a mate worthy enough to stand by his side that won me over.

It is a testament to Dee's ability that she managed to make a slight part of me feel for the villain who continued to terrorize Lia until his demise, and I couldn't help a tiny part of myself from thinking that it is the monsters who had carved him into what he turned out to be that should be rotting in hell. I know that the as the Resurrection series continues that everyone would get what they deserve, in fact I'm counting on that to happen so that I can revel in it big time when their asses get kicked to Hell never to return!

How Dee does it I would never know, but let me tell you I loved every single minute of it! One minute I am practically drooling and panting over the explosive passion between Tate and Lia, the next I am immersed in tender emotions so deep that I just feel like curling into a ball and sighing in contentment and the next thing I know I am laughing out loud at the witty banter between Tate and Lia that never fails to amuse! Kudos to Dee who manages it so effortlessly and made this book one entertaining fest that I won't be forgetting anytime soon!

Highly recommended for fans of the series, fans of Dee Tenorio and fans of paranormal romantic suspense.

Delivering a kick-ass paranormal world with a heady mix of suspense and romance that one cannot resist, Deceiving the Protector is a SHOULD NOT MISS!

Memorable Quotes:

Then he stepped into an orchard, on a rise of packed dirt between tree groves, and proceeded not to give a rat's ass what she might be trying to do.

The scent was finally clear.

And it went straight to his head.

Female. Apples. Cool water. Rich earth. Rain. Sunshine.

Sometimes, she wasn't sure when she was seeing him, except for those few moments when their eyes met and she couldn't look away to save her own life. She could see the protector in him then, sense the hunter. Raw strength emanated from him in those moments, his intensity surrounding her, suffusing her. She could almost feel his arms around her, trying to pull her under his protection. She'd be safe with him. Not cosseted, maybe, but...she'd be able to breathe. To know the next breath was coming, sure as the sunrise.

(Tate) "Sure, she can. She also makes a staff out of light that can cut people and the cars they're driving in half. Five-feet-five-inches of pure power. Even at her best, it's like having a nuclear bomb for a sister-in-law."

"Boy." Lia laughed, and by the look on his face he knew it was at his expense. "She must love you."

"We have a complicated relationship," he agreed with a self-deprecating nod. "Sort of a cross between suspicion and fuck you."

His hands gripped her hips, slowing her descent. She could feel him savoring her, quaking at the feel of her claw tips sinking into his shoulders. His eyes flickered, the gray color she loved having shifted to the glowing yellow of his Wolf. She smiled, bucking against his hold.

"This time, I take you." She pushed down, filling herself with him. He growled, drowning out her sigh. He squeezed tight, but she refused to be held back. She lifted up, rocking forward before sliding back down, savoring his groan against the beaded tips of her breasts. "I'm claiming you, Jensen Tate."

Because you're mine.

Rating=5/5

Original review posted on MBR's Realm of Romance

Saly says

This wasn't as good. Heroine was too tortured and kept her secrets for way too long. Somehow I just didn't connect with it much.

Rebecca says

You can also read this review at Reflections on Reading Romance

I've long been a fan of Dee Tenorio's contemporary romances, but a few months ago I was surprised to see that she had published a paranormal romance, *Tempting the Enemy*. It was dark and sexy, so I was thrilled to see that on Monday she released a sequel, *Deceiving the Protector*. As with the first in the series, this book is

action-packed and filled with suspense and sexual tension.

Deceiving the Protector picks up about a year after the end of Tempting the Enemy. The alpha Pale Rysen and his psychic Sibile mate Jade have set up a safe haven for the shifters in the mountains of Southern California. In the first book the shifters were under attack as they traveled on the underground, and now the shifters who are travelling to the safety promised by Resurrection are under attack from a new enemy, a serial killer who's able to hide his scent. Deceiving the Protector focuses on the alpha's adopted brother, Jensen Tate, who has been sent by the Sibile to protect a lone shifter, Aurelia (Lia) Crawford. While Lia needs Tate's help, she's also desperate to avoid him, because the serial killer has been following her every move, placing any shifters she meets on the underground in danger. If she accepts Tate's help, she could be leading him straight to the killer. But Lia's drawn to Tate's stubborn (and I do mean stubborn) strength, and, in spite of Lia's surly demeanor, Tate's attracted to Lia's fierce nature. The two must work together to free Lia from the killer while fighting their attraction to one another.

This is not a light-hearted read. It's definitely a dark and violent world, and Ms. Tenorio does an outstanding job of creating a terrifying villain. We're introduced to the killer, Asher, in the prologue, and his appearance is truly fearsome. He's dressed completely in black, with a horrifying mask and strange lenses in place of eyes. What makes Asher all the more frightening is the group that backs him – the mysterious Shifter Control Task Force. We learn through intense flashbacks that Lia was captured by the human-run organization and horribly experimented on. The nauseating experiments and Lia's sense of hopelessness give the novel a darker feel than was present in the first book.

The sexual tension between Tate and Lia is complicated by both Lia's upbringing and her twisted relationship with the killer Asher. Lia's parents raised her and her sister Laurel as humans in an attempt to avoid the death squads hunting shifters. Since the humans have been hunting shifters for over a century, many of the shifters' customs have been lost, and Tate has to explain the differences between mating and bonding to Lia. Until he does, Lia fears that the Shifter Control Task Force has managed to pervert her wolf nature and forever connected her to the horrific Asher. Lia's ignorance about other shifters and mating also leads to a few misunderstandings with Tate, but in a way her ignorance is an advantage, since the Shifter Control Task Force is unable to learn as much about shifters during her incarceration.

Despite these complications, their romance is smoldering, with both hero and heroine presenting tough exteriors that hide vulnerabilities. Lia has managed to escape from the human authorities twice, but she's torn between her feelings toward Tate and Asher's blackmail demands. Her memories of the torture sessions are presented as flashbacks throughout the novel, which increase the tension for the reader because you begin to realize the terror that awaits her should she be recaptured. Tate's haunted by memories of a former lover who slaughtered members of his family, leaving him unwilling to open his heart to another. Just as their relationship begins to unfold and they start trusting each other, danger threatens their lives and their love, at times leaving you in doubt as to their happy ever after. The suspense is skillfully drawn out, and the mix of action and romance is just right.

Tenorio's world of hunted shifters and psychic Sibiles is an original take on the paranormal romance, and this second installment of the series was well done, but I do have one small complaint. Tate is supposed to be a lawyer, but I'm not sure why any profession is attributed to him since it was completely inconsequential to the action of the novel or the development of the romance. At one point when he's ignoring Lia she reminds him that as a lawyer he should be used to answering questions, but other than that, it seems unimportant. I kept expecting his job to play some role in how the story unfolds, but it really didn't. Also, I had to wonder how he would be able to disappear from work at odd times to help investigate any problems in the shifter underground.

The ending of the novel is both haunting and hopeful, which is difficult to achieve. I loved it, and Ms. Tenorio has allowed room for future sequels while tying up loose ends in this book. Given the dark tone of this novel and the deft handling of the suspense and romance, I'm definitely looking forward to reading more about the shifters at Resurrection.

I received this book for review from the Publisher through NetGalley.

Mrs. Badass says

Quick Review: Grade B+

This was a great read from Dee Tenorio. I felt honest emotion throughout and felt for Lia and what she had to endure and what she had to hide from. I felt her despair, but also her overwhelming desire to protect her sister. {as well as Asher and the Task force's future targets}

This is a novel that is best to be read and experienced by yourself rather than reading reviews. It's a good book, and it can stand alone, but there is another in the series that came first "Tempting the Enemy" about the wolf Alpha Pale, and his mate Jade.

Tate was a fantastic hero. Strong, loyal, competent and protective.

Lia, likewise was strong, determined and damaged but still with a heart.

Tate and Lia together were smoldering, and the sexual tension was great.

The villain was seriously creepy, and the shifter task force was so evil. The flashbacks we witness through Lia are heartbreakingly disturbing. This world that Dee Tenorio created is dark, violent and bloody.

I can't wait to read more set in this world that Pale and Tate have helped create, a shifter underground railroad. Compelling, sinister and captivating.

Jen Davis says

Tate is on a mission to find and protect a female stray until he can bring her into the fold of the Shifter Underground. Lia doesn't want his help. Everyone who has tried to get close to her has died, horribly, at the hands of the man who considers himself her mate. And she is sure that Trent will meet the same fate if she lets him into her life.

The past few years have been torture for Lia. She and her sister were kidnapped by government agents, then kept in a facility. They were experimented on... injured... humiliated. That's where she met Asher... where his mark was forced upon her. Even now that she is out of the facility, there is no escape. He can track her; he can punish her --and he will destroy anyone who dares to make a connection with her.

Of course, Tate ignores Lia's protests and takes her under his protection. For the first time in a very long time, she allows herself the luxury of feelings --and desire. Together, they learn what true mating really is

and what it means to bond their souls to each other.

All of this happens against the backdrop of a world where shifters are feared and maligned by society. The series follows a small group of wolves trying to create a home and new life for others of their kind. The world building is straightforward and easy to understand. And while there are references to the events of the first book in the series, I never got lost or too bogged down with information overload.

The love story was ok, the ongoing shifter story is better.... but for me the Epilogue was the best part of the book. All too often in romances, these days, authors use an Epilogue as a dumping ground for a wedding, pregnancy or a baby. But this one adds to the story and gives it an extra layer of emotional resonance. Well done. 4 stars.

ARC Provided by NetGalley

Lynette says

I've been in a serious reading slump. Reading **DECEIVING THE PROTECTOR** snapped me out of it.

I've read a couple of Ms. Tenorio's novels before. Ms. Tenorio also writes contemporaries. While I always love her heroes, her heroines often fall too short to me, which make it hard for me to buy into the couple's chemistry. That is so not the case with **DECEIVING THE PROTECTOR**. Lia grabbed me from the first sentence from the first page until the last page, and as always her heroes are well drawn out and drool worthy.

DECEIVING THE PROTECTOR is like a roller coaster ride. From the first page the tension is wratched up as Lia who is running for her life is caught. She is on the run when she encounters Tate, a shifter tasked with finding stray shifters and leading them through the underground and eventually to Resurrection a safe haven town in the California mountains, run by Pale the Alpha wolf and the hero in the first book of the series. The only problem is that Lia doesn't want to be saved, nor be escorted to the safe house. While she has very good reasons, I couldn't help but be a little annoyed with her for taking so long to tell Tate why she was so reluctant to go along with the plan to get her to the safe house. It seemed a little too dragged out for me. I felt that Lia deliberately placed him in danger by not being honest. If she told him, he could have at least been prepared for the threat more. That is one of my only minor quibbles with **DECEIVING THE PROTECTOR** as both Tate and Lia had such great character arcs and they tugged at my emotional heartstrings from the start. Once she finally told him who was after her and why it was imperative she had to deceive him, they began working as a cohesive unit. The transition was seamless with the romantic tension as well as escalation of the outside forces stalking them. While I enjoyed the first book in the series, **DECEIVING THE PROTECTOR** turned me into a fan.

Scooper Speaks says

Favorite Lines: **“He touched you.” He pounded her into the mud again, punctuating his words with violence. “No one touches what’s mine!” (p. 38, egalley)**

Deceiving the Protector is book two in Dee Tenorio's Resurrection series about shifters trying to survive in a world where humans know of their existence. I did not read the first book, *Tempting the Enemy*, and had no problems reading the story.

I felt so bad for Lia through almost the entire story. That girl had it bad. From the madman intent on torturing her to the emotional loss that tagged her, I wanted just one thing good to happen to her. As she dreaded interactions, I dreaded them. I wanted her to clue Jensen in, but understood why she could not. Her secret keeping still made me grit my teeth because I wondered how many lives would be lost before she sought help.

Jensen is a walking contradiction. He's all calm on the outside but full of seriousness and turmoil inside. He is also a high-ranking member of his pack and a strong, determined man. He's a great teacher and a patient man. I really liked him. He is a worthy mate for Lia.

The killer is a sadistic monster. He isn't a rapist, but he thrives on injuring others especially Lia. He exerts unconditional control over her until Jensen enters the picture. He is one scary sucka. I flashed to Ian Moore, aka I am no one guy on CSI Las Vegas. Scary and intimidating as hell.

It wasn't until the end of the book when characters from book one appeared that I began to wonder if I should have read the first book in the series. I knew who the characters were from the bits and pieces given in the story, but I didn't know them like I would have had I read book one. I also took an immediate dislike for book one's heroine, Jade. She came across as a total bitch. I think people who've read *Tempting the Enemy* might feel different.

In the end, I got a kick out of *Deceiving the Protector*. I never knew when the killer was going to show his face and that suspense about killed me. It was delicious. I felt the interest between the main characters build while they traveled a dangerous road wondering if salvation lay at the end. It worked well. I look forward to reading more from Tenorio.

Scooper Speaks

Jen says

Before I get into the review, I do have to say one thing - Dee Tenorio could have stopped the book in a few different places and the book would have really good - but it's like she KNEW I wasn't ready to leave this couple yet, so she kept going - and made the book even more wonderful!

Awesome is the word I have to say -

I truly love the whole "Bonding/Mate" thing when it comes to wolves - it's just a whole magical attachment that no one can explain and it really gives me chills every time I read about it :)

This book was no exception - but it was different in a way that really kept me on my toes -

The book starts off with Jensen Tate - or Tate - is searching for a stray shifter who has taken off - he can barely make out her scent, it's there but if he moves too fast, he'll lose it - Wolf. Distinctly female. A faint sent, tickling at his senses.

But there is something about her sent, something fresh, enticing in its elusiveness. Almost... Tempting.

Finally catching up with her , he approaches with caution. You don't want to spook a starving wolf - and from the looks of her, that's exactly what she is. But she's strong, and she scared and she's waiting for him to come closer.

"you don't have to worry, okay? I'm from the Underground and I've been looking for you. I'm here to help"

The Underground is an organized group by the Pack where they help take in stray shifters of all kinds, give them food and shelter and help them feel safe. But there is a Killer out on the loose right now, someone is killing the strays in a brutal way, so they are moving shifters around to different safe houses, to keep the strays safe.

Now Lia is a very strong willed Stray - she has a past that no one could ever believe. She does what she needs to in order to survive, and she can't trust him - It's not that she doesn't WANT to trust him. She feels a slight pull whenever she looks deep into his eyes.

She goes willingly with Tate on their 2 day journey to the next safe house. The whole time Tate tries to talk to her, get her to loosen up a little, but she stays silent. Lol He talks to her, and when she doesn't respond, he makes up her answers - and some of them are so ridiculous, it's all she could do not to show any sign of amusement :) Until he starts whistling. That drives her CRAZY! Nothing as loud as this, not for this long has ever bothered her. this much. No matter how she twisted away from him, or changed his pace, he was right there. Whistling. Setting her senses warping from misery. When she finally had to put her hands over her ears, he actually got louder. But when he laughed - he actually laughed at her! - "Don't you EVERY shut up?"

Lol well we learn that Tate in fact doesn't shut up :) And he is good at annoying Lia :) But it also helps her to open up to him a little, too. She lets her guard down for a few mins here and there.

When they first pitch camp, deep in the woods, Tate is afraid to take his eyes off her. He makes a phone call and meets with Bertha (I love this girl) She is one of his enforcers of such , so she fills him in with the information of the latest murder - it's not pretty.

When Bertha leaves, he looks over to where Lia was sleeping, just a few yards over, but she was gone.

He followed her. Her scent was so dim he could barely smell it, but he did smell a strong sense of Fear coming from her. He followed that -

That's where we meet Asher - Lia's Forced Mate - This guy isn't a wonderful Mate either - sure he probably does adore Lia in his own sick and strange way , but he grabs her by the throat and digs his knees into the dirt pinning her down, She can't breathe, and she can't move.

She has never seen Asher's face, but she is terrified of him. When Asher asks why she has the scent of another wolf on her arm, she tells him that Tate is the brother of the Alpha, if she can keep him alive, he can lead her to the Alpha - So Asher gives her another day

And so the journey begins ...

sigh A LOT goes on in this book -. so many details, so much emotion , it really stirs things up for the reader - I didn't know rather to laugh or cry half the time :)

I'm really excited I got the chance to read this book. I just bought the first one, and now I'm off to read that :)
