



Fallow

Jordan L. Hawk

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When Griffin's past collides with his present, will it cost the lives of everyone he loves?

Between the threat of a world-ending invasion from the Outside and unwelcome revelations about his own nature, Percival Endicott Whyborne is under a great deal of strain. His husband, Griffin Flaherty, wants to help—but how can he, when Whyborne won't tell him what's wrong?

When a man from Griffin's past murders a sorcerer, the situation grows even more dire. Once a simple farmer from Griffin's hometown of Fallow, the assassin now bears a terrifying magical corruption, one whose nature even Whyborne can't explain.

To keep Griffin's estranged mother safe, they must travel to a dying town in Kansas. But as drought withers the crops of Fallow, a sinister cult sinks its roots deep into the arid soil. And if the cult's foul harvest isn't stopped in time, Fallow will be only the first city to fall.

Fallow is the eighth book in the Whyborne & Griffin series, where magic, mystery, and m/m romance collide with Victorian era America.

Fallow Details

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From Reader Review Fallow for online ebook

♣ Irish Smurfétté ♣ says

4.5 emotional, creepy, fantastic stars on Prism Book Alliance®

The wind strengthened from over the ocean, coiling around the slender figure standing atop a craggy rock. She might have been some barbaric sea goddess, dressed in nothing but golden jewelry and a skirt of knotted seaweed. Dark swirls marked her pearlescent skin like war paint, and the stinging tendrils of her hair writhed as the autumnal breeze grew into a gale.

My first thought? Woohoo, Persephone! After that? Wow, what an opening paragraph! And what immediately follows? Hahaha, you'll want to read to find out, but I will say typical Whyborne.

I'm just going to get this out of the way right now: I try hard not to go overboard with the squee in my reviews when I absolutely love a book because that isn't all that helpful to most people trying to decide if they want to read it or not. But sometimes? Every once in awhile, ya gotta frackin' let the squee loose. I've loved this series from book one, Widdershins, and these characters are some of my all time favorites, ones that I find joy and comfort and excitement in spending time with them. Every time. No joke. Including this one.

~SQUEE~

Ok, now that I've gotten that out of the way, I'll do my best to provide a review that might actually prove useful.

Oh, Ival and Grif, surely you've by now learned that keeping things from each other in order to "spare" or "protect" one another never works. When will you learn? How many lessons do you require? I groaned a bit when this appeared to be the case, a carry over from the last book and the events that took place then, the past summer in Widdershins. I feel like knocking their heads together. And they're equally guilty of it. I know this because we get both their points of view in this tale. For real, though, this dual keeping of secrets threatens to undermine the truth of the incredible strength of their relationship. Luckily, and wonderfully, the dual POV is used to fantastic effect, creating mini cliffhangers at the end of many a chapter, causing my heart to race right along with the action.

As is the norm in this series, Hawk lays on the creeptastic with the paranormal inclusions. Magic, maelstrom, shadowsight, and... well, you'll find out.

Griffin's voice is stronger than ever, which works out considering where most of this story takes place and the role he plays. It feels like Hawk has delved deeper into and understands him better than before. Most importantly his character's narration is approaching parity with Whyborne's and that makes for even smoother storytelling, complex emotion, and greater investment from me as I'm experiencing their lives. It also allows for more exploration and development of the relationship he and Ival have. Passionate, intelligent, stubborn, loyal, and still learning, they both are, and it's awesome. It's so cool to watch a writer's progress continue, particularly into an eighth story in a series, and the benefits it bestows upon her characters. Brava.

Christine, also as usual, demonstrates that she is badass. She doesn't hesitate to voice or carry out her plans

when it comes to protecting these people she loves, this chosen family. These are true of all of them but she is often first in line to make it happen, whatever 'it' might be, no matter how dangerous or uncertain the situation. All four of these characters, these best friends, this chosen family – Whyborne, Griffin, Christine, and Iskander – show growth and solidity in their characters, matching their author's writing. I will say, though, for as much as Iskander does in this story, I would love to see an even larger role for him, or rather more exploration of *his* story, how he came to be the person he is, how does it feel to be him during these crazy events, and being married to Christine. My inquiring mind wants to know.

Magic, adrenaline, humor, fear, love, gore, and many things coming full circle bring on the kind of symmetrical connections that then bring on the tears. At least they did for me.

"I see you," I murmured, once he let me speak again. "And I love what I see. More than I would ever have thought possible."

You'll have to read in order to find out who is making such a beautiful proclamation. :)

ETA: Recommended Read on PBA for August 2016

Verity says

[image error]

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

4 Stars!

Once again, JLH delivers on this duo who have grown from reluctant participators in the supernatural madness they find themselves embroiled in, into full out champions of humankind! I for one can't help but rally behind such heroes!

Here, the weight of responsibility continues to be a heavy burden to bear. The return of ultimate evil is on the horizon, and some are planning to take advantage, some are planning on giving succor, and others, like our beloved Whyborne and Griffin, are determined to do all in their power to subvert such.

This latest installment continues to reveal more of what other fanatical groups are doing in the wake of this doomsday predicament. Never one to not help out, their faithful friend Christine, with her husband Iskander, show their support and lend aide in the face of such adversity. Be reassured, Whyborne and Griffin's love is their strongest asset, definitely guiding their actions and always helping them conquer their foes.

Still brimming with suspense and quite a bit of disturbing horror, this is full on dreamy romance regarding a well loved established couple. Consistent swoony adventurous terrifying fun!

Alisa says

So I'm going to completely ignore the fact that this cover makes my baby Griffin look like a pervy creeper and just talk about the book. This was another great installment that found the group going back to the town my boyfriend Griffin, who is in fact Not a pervy creeper, grew up in. This was an action packed story that I found really creative and I enjoyed every minute of it. There were also some really touching moments between Griffin (not a pervy creeper) and Whyborne. These two make me go "aahh" almost every book with their swoon worthy declarations. Of course Christine and Kander were along for the ride and as usual Christine stole every scene she was in. (When I grow up I want to be Christine)

So.....another great installment for me.

****pulls up old books and pets old covers while reassuring Griffin that he'll always look like this in my mind****

What in the holy hell happened to this cover? Where are Whyborne and Griffin and who are these dudes on their book? There is not enough NO in the world to express the level of NO this is for me!

Meags says

4.5 Stars

It's book number eight and things are as heart-stoppingly exciting and as dreamily romantic as ever for our beloved Whyborne and Griffin, and their dearest friends Christine and Iskander.

In their latest supernatural adventure, the group head to the farming town of Fallow, Kansas, where Griffin grew up, to investigate some strange and potentially world-threatening events – what's new, right?!

The change of setting was a lot of fun, but also crazy creepy, with lots of disturbing occurrences happening to the people and around the town of Fallow. The moment Whyborne and company arrived in this desolate and unnerving place, I wanted them to get straight back on the train and get the hell outta there. Though it wouldn't be much of a story if our favourite characters simply ran screaming from the otherworldly madness they so often find themselves facing, would it?

As per usual, it's up to our heroes and heroine to find and thwart the evil doers plans for world-domination and general wickedness. Although it's touch and go here a few times, often leaving me breathless with worry and then signing in sweet relief, as always, Whyborne and his friends rise above all challenges and win the day, as is only right.

I enjoyed this story greatly and I find myself continually fascinated with Hawk's historical world-building as a whole. She sets the scene so well that you feel like you're in these places at a specific time in history, regardless of all the fantastical supernatural elements that are at play.

As thrilling and action-packed as these stories tend to be, I find myself taking comfort in the pure goodness of the characters, continually being moved by their deep friendships and their epic loves. Sitting down with a Whyborne and Griffin story feels like coming home. (view spoiler)

It's quite awe-inspiring how epic this series remains after eight novels and a handful of shorts. I truly cannot fathom ever tiring of reading about this awesome supernatural world Hawk has created, and I certainly can't imagine a time when I don't have a new or upcoming Whyborne and Griffin story on the horizon. I'll honestly be devastated when all is said and done, because saying goodbye to these beloved characters is going to be a highly emotional experience for me. Thank God for re-reads, right!?

Kaje Harper says

One of the best things about this installment of the series is the chance to walk in Griffin's world, following his POV as the action moves back to the town where he was adopted and grew up. We learn more about the events that made him leave home, and re-meet some of his remaining family. The times when he has to deal with his past, and the moments when he helps Whyborne deal with his own re-imagined origins and future, are the heart of the book.

There is plenty of creepy supernatural action here. Christine once again shines as a strong female character who is not going to take a back-seat to the men in her life. There is some heat and some humor, along with a galloping plot with a few interesting twists. This is a series to be read in order, and I will happily pick up the next one when it appears, (although add me to the list of those who preferred the first covers. These are nice, but those were unique.) Still, the books inside those covers continue to be a fun ride with two very engaging main characters.

Barbara? says

After not liking book 7 as much as previous installments, I went into this one with my fingers crossed. I have enjoyed this series so much I hated to think my love affair with Whyborne & Griffin was over. I shouldn't have worried.

This one takes us to Kansas to Griffin's hometown. There's a creepy children of the corn vibe going on not to mention a fungus amongus!

Poor Griffin. My heart hurt for him so much. He wants his family's approval and love so bad. But what he finally comes to realize is that Whyborne, Christine, Iskander and the rest of Widdershins *IS* his family. That's all he needs. Widdershins chose *him*. It knows its own.

Whyborne is fighting his own demons and guilt in this one. But he too realizes that Griffin *SEES* him. He knows who Whyborne truly is.

These two are one of my all-time favorite couples. I am going to be sad when I run out of books. But in the mean time...moving right along to book 9.

Rhys Ford says

I simply adore this series and well, Jordan L Hawk is one of the best writers I've ever had the pleasure to read.

This book is a fantastic addition to the series. It was great delving into Griffin's past and how he dovetails into Whyborne's life on so many levels.

It's hard to write a review without disclosing spoilers but I can say their relationship is a weave of complicated personalities and deep love, strong enough to overcome the obstacles thrown their way and tender enough to soften the sharp edges of their sometimes hard, brutal world.

Hawk adds an interesting dimension to her series with this book and sets her world up for dramatic expansion. This book needed to be written, providing a depth and charisma to Griffin's character Whyborne needed to see. I urge you to try this series...and everything its fabulous writer writes. Her craftsmanship with language and nuance are a pleasure that cannot be missed.

Gaby says

4.5 Stars

Ok, so, a few things before I start with my actual review.

1. The Whyborne and Griffin Series has remained one of my favorite series ever, not only as M/M, but in paranormal as a whole.
 2. It's very difficult, I think, that an author can pull 8 books with the same couple and do it amazingly well, adding depth to the characters, not only the main ones but the secondary ones, and showing growth as individuals and in their relationships in general. Hawk does this brilliantly, IMO.
 3. Try keeping the attention of the readers for 8 books (well, at least mine. Lots of people can go on and on). I can't begin to tell you how many series I've ended up DNFing because the characters suddenly lost the appeal. Or they read as if they'd gotten a personality transplant and read nothing like the characters I originally fell in love with. This is NOT the case. Whyborne, Griffin, Christine, and even Iskander who was introduced to us later in the series keep being themselves. I love this.
 4. The cover... God. I know a lot of people don't like it. I know they feel disappointed – whether because they just don't like it, or because the people in the cover clash with the image they had of the characters. I respect all the opinions, I do. But, honestly, the cover is great and it reflects the magic (literally) in this book. But more importantly, if you are giving up a brilliant series because you don't like the cover... then.. I don't even know what to tell ya.
- That being said, let's move on to the review.

So, I think Fallow might be my favorite book of the series. Whyborne and Griffin read more and more established with every installment. Their relationship is beautiful, and their love for one another is strong. The devotion they have for the other is palpable, but it's not overdone.

One of the things that usually happens (to me, as a reader) when I follow a long series, is that, at some point of the series I start feeling like the characters lost something in the way. Usually, the spark, if it's a couple. Relationships evolve and we grow with them. In many cases, that hunger and passion subsides a bit. Sex and pleasure are still part of that relationship but it's not all. There are many elements that put together (yes, this includes the sexual attraction) make us what we are as a couple. I've found that in books this is difficult to pull off, or that at least the way authors write it is not usually the way I can feel the characters' emotions. For this reason, I tend to DNF series. Mrs. Hawk does an amazing job putting all these things together. She preserves the passion the characters share, the desire they have for the other, but she mingles it with other things that are just as important for them, and it reads perfect. It reads like love, and I love that.

The love that these two have for each other is so big. So powerful. And it makes so much for them, and it scares them. It especially scares Whyborne, who is always wondering if he's ruined Griffin's life because of his own (Whyborne's) nature. This, is discussed in this book. Our characters realize that they are where they are because they truly belong there, because, after all, Widdershins Knows Its Own. All of them.

These fears have been cooking up for a couple of books now. But this time, because our heroes have to travel to Fallow, Kansas (Griffin's home), this feeling magnifies and the reality of some of those suspicions settle in.

Their stay in Fallow is no vacation, of course. There's magic, a sorceress, people driven by hurt and hate because they were hurt and hated. There are corrupted people – who I imagine like a strange version of zombies, but not quite. There is disappointment, and sadness. There is fear for those you love. But then there is also finding your family, your true family, and embracing them.

I didn't always love what I read in this book. I say this in the sense that it was a bit painful to read. But it was SO necessary, too. After finding himself written off by those he loves the most, Griffin made peace with himself knowing that he did what he could. He also knows that he's never going to give up what he loves the most, and what makes him so happy. As pained as I was, I really liked this storyline. It allowed me to see a bit more of the Griffin I love so much. At the same time, this allowed me to see a bit more of the Whyborne I love so much as well. That fierce man who loves his husband and would do anything for him. The realism of the situation, and how it was tackled and solved, added an edge of sadness and melancholy mixed with peacefulness because after all, they all found their place.

There are a couple of things I wish would change by now. One of these things is this insistence of Whyborne and Griffin of protecting each other by keeping things from each other... Like, dude.. 7 books! SEVEN! Learn your lesson! They are at their best when they are one hundred percent honest with each other, and yet, the fear makes them go and hide stuff... *eyes both W&G*

That being said, there are also things that will never change and I adore that. Christine, my badass book wife, is one of them. When I first discovered this series I was in awe at how beautifully strong and badass Christine was. She was fiercely loyal, smart, pretty much her own woman (which is pretty odd for a woman of the era where the story takes place), she's unbelievably intelligent. She always says what she thinks consequences be damned. She reads somewhat cold sometimes, but the truth is that you won't find a woman with this much heart. Also, she's the queen of the riffle, so there's that.

Another amazing thing about this is the gore element that the author brings to her stories, and particularly to this series. If someone can write fantastic monsters and creatures, and combine them with love, friendship, magic, and whatnot, that's Mrs. Hawk.

So, really. If you like M/M Romance, and paranormal romance, and historical romance, and badass women who are true to themselves over all, this is a series you need to try.

Ami says

3.5 stars

This is for the first time after seven books, that I wasn't completely enamored by this new installment of *Whyborne & Griffin* series -- me sad :(. Let me write down the things that annoyed me a lot first ... so I can end this opinion in positive note.

More so than the rest, I was superbly annoyed with Whyborne, and his 'guilt' feel that ended up making him keeping secrets from Griffin. I have a LOT of series that I follow religiously, and one thing that I always want from long-time series featuring same couple, is that I want them to stay/become solid as they go and face the world together. Become power couple, you know?

So after four years together that span into SEVEN books, this kind of behavior from Whyborne is not one I can easily tolerate. If this is going to become something repetitive in the next books?? Yeah, if so, I am going to stay annoyed *hmp* . And as much as I enjoy Whyborne being clueless again with the idea of women being into him, at times I found him being whiny and a little bit too judgey. Guess I was having short fuse when I read this book.

BUT, BUT ... I loved the idea of Griffin going back to Fallow and finally got his closure. As much as it was difficult for him, especially knowing what his Ma did, I thought it was needed. At least now Griffin can move forward. I loved everything about Griffin in this book, and I wanted to hug him when things got tough.

And another positive note? Christine Putnam-Barnett still kicked ass!

Nick Pageant says

Another amazing installment. Ival is still the amusing, unassuming sorcerer next door. Griffin is still my boyfriend. And, once again, Christine rocked my socks.

Ms. Smartarse says

In the middle of nowhere there's a forgotten little town named Fallow. Not much is happening there, save for its gradual but steady decline in population. Some time ago, there was this huge scandal with the young Flaherty boy and his indecent hobby, but things eventually died down. Or so they should have, if it weren't for some people, who *juuuuust* couldn't move on.

In the meantime, everyone's favorite private detective has bigger fish to fry than remembering old history.

After all, *ancient* history is threatening to destroy the world. But then life is never easy, and Griffin finds himself in urgent need of switching priorities. Of course, his beloved husband, and two best friends are there for him at all times... even if they have to dress up as "normal", to do so.

"We're newlyweds, you see, and-"

"Stop dawdling and get inside, man!"

[Whyborne] glimpsed the maid doubled over in silent laughter before Christine forcefully shut the door.

But then everything can be overcome if you have your loved ones' support... *or did I speak to soon?*

If there is one setting that just screams creepy horror story to me, it's a corn field in bum-fuck-nowhere Nebraska. All courtesy of the 2009 movie adaptation of *Children of the Corn*. I haven't read the book, but the movie left me all sorts of chilled and creeped out for *months*. With that imagery in mind, *Fallow* was the absolute perfect setting for our heroes to confront yet another monster, on their way to... erm I'm not entirely sure what the series' end game is yet, tbh.

Score: 4/5 stars

A fun and engaging story, that shed some more light on Griffin's background, his family, and atrocities that make magical monsters seem downright acceptable. Sort of. Other than that: plenty of action scenes, some funny outtakes, and not to forget the steamy romantic stuff, to keep the reader coming back for more.

On a completely unrelated tangent, why does Google consider dried up ground sexy? Or rather: since when has the Interwebs become so metaphor savvy?!

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Review of book 1: Widdershins

Review of book 1.5: Eidolon

Review of book 2: Threshold

Review of book 3: Stormhaven

Review of book 4: Necropolis

Review of book 5: Bloodline

Review of book 6: Hoarfrost

Review of book 7: Maelstrom

Review of book 8.5: Undertow

Review of book 9: Draakenwood

Review of book 10: Balefire

Donna says

Another wonderful book in this series! There was lots of action and suspense. Some really evil villains! Christine being a crack shot again! I was so happy to see Whyborne finally open up about what had been causing him guilt and anguish and learn that he was wrong in his worries. I can't wait for the next book!

Sofia says

Fallow is a rollercoaster of a ~~wave~~ story, once I got to a certain point I simply had to continue right till the end. Making me feel that I've read this too fast and that I certainly need more. Not that this episode is not complete in itself, but that I miss them already and I want more.

Hawk continues to astonish me how the whole story stays fresh and she continues to add more and more to it and to her characters. It's become an intricate web that makes me want to continue pulling at the threads to see where they come from and to finally see the whole picture. In the meantime her characters continue to grow and have my now become part of my book family.

Especially appreciated this time where she look into Kansas and it's people she gave us, more background for our Griffin.

BR with my W&G buddies - the experience would not be the same without them.

Chelsea says

Nothing can keep my attention like a Whyborne and Griffin book! No matter what I'm doing or have planned for the day, once I pick up one of these books, I'm stuck until its finished!

This wasn't my favourite of the series so far, but it still has everything I adore about this series. Griffin's love and admiration of his *Ival*, Whyborne's hilarious mannerisms and social awkwardness, Christine's fire and Kander's calm influence. This had crazy adventure and disgusting magical creatures and of course some very passionate sex!

I can't wait for the next installment and I'm pretty sure I'll mourn, for like...a year when this series ends.
