



The Wolf at His Door

Adrian W. Lilly

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Twenty-one-year-old Alec Rune is annoyed when his older sister, Lucy, ambushes him with a blind date with her friend, Jared. But Alec is immediately attracted to the intriguing, intelligent young man.

But the past has claws...

Ilene Rune nearly collapses when she meets her son's new boyfriend. His black hair and startling green eyes are the same as a man she knew years ago—an evil, violent man with strange powers.

The present has teeth...

Investigating a string of missing persons cases leads Detective Carmen Salazar into the dark world of fairy tales and fantasy—and shakes her belief in what is possible or imagined.

And the future is filled with blood...

Alec awakes from a coma with no recollection of the night his twin brother was torn to pieces. As a madman closes in on him and his family, can Alec learn the werewolves' plan before his entire family is destroyed?

The Wolf at His Door Details

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Author : Adrian W. Lilly

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From Reader Review The Wolf at His Door for online ebook

Fangs for the Fantasy says

Alec has many good friends, a twin brother and big sister who support him and even now a new boyfriend – well, potential boyfriend. Sure their parents fight a lot and not all is warm and fuzzy – and his headaches can make him damn miserable at times, but things are good.

Except those headaches are prescient – an omen of doom to come.

When the werewolf arrives, it extracts a cost of blood. Friends, family and loved ones die, one after another. The town is rocked by a huge string of missing persons, people disappearing without a trace – and the new boyfriend Jared is more than what he seems

In the midst of chaos and loss, Alec can only find some way to stop the werewolf before everyone he loves is killed.

We have a pretty interesting and intriguing story here – one that takes werewolves back to being monsters, a threat a danger. Few books have truly made the werewolf as monstrous as this one – not just in terms of evil deeds and savage monstrosity (though the atrocities committed in this book easily match any that the monsters have committed in others) but also in terms of sheer unstoppable. The power of the werewolf, the horror of facing one down, the utter helplessness of being confronted by this monster has been excellently conveyed. The book also doesn't pull any punches when presenting the horror of the aftermath, the carnage, the gore, the shellshocked and wounded survivors, the devastation left in their work.

We have some excellent hints of a broad world and some building epic metaplot that will no doubt lead to lots of fascinating revelations and development in the future. There's a lot there that is being hinted at with all kind of implications of experiments and magic and powers that I really want to know more about

The main problem I have with this book is we have a lot of characters who are introduced to us very quickly and not a great deal of effort is made to develop any of them. And that includes the protagonist – who spends a decent portion of the book unconscious – in fact, I'm not even sure if it's accurate to call him a protagonist because the book didn't really focus on him. It just didn't really focus on anyone else either. The only person who had a lot of her depth analysed, her past, her motivations and her pain was Ilene. And while it's good to get a character so developed, her motivations, her past, her guilt, her shame, her battling to move past there, her loss and her confusion, I'm still left kind of wondering why I spent so much time in her head and not everyone else's when she was so secondary to the plot.

We have a number of characters buzzing around the plot who didn't seem to serve any role – Alec's doctor, police investigating missing persons, police investigating the murders. Hey were kind of just there – and yes, you expect all of these people to be there, but why make them such characters, why have scenes from their point of view, why spend so much time in the heads of people who could just as easily been reduced to names on paper? They may be relevant later in the trilogy, I suspect several of them will be – but there's just bloat now. There's just a lot of time in this book spent examining the heads of people who aren't really relevant to the narrative, to the detriment of the people who actually are.

This leads to many of the horrific incidents in the book not carrying the same weight. People are killed in this book and I'm not even sure who they are. There are so many people wandering back and forth I needed to keep notes just to figure out who each person was and how they related to the protagonist and, eventually, a note on whether or not I actually needed to care about this person, what they were doing or what they were feeling. One small advantage of Ilene's over-analysis is it gave us some window into the grief over the many many dead – but it was kind of the only window. And there were some characters dying here who should have been utterly devastating to Alec and quite a few other characters and it just wasn't, not to the extent I'd expect. I certainly wasn't moved because I didn't know enough about them to connect.

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Christine Corretti says

This book is very engrossing. I am picky about my novels, and this one did not disappoint. The novel is very spooky, mysterious, super suspenseful, with action on every page. Lots of surprises and awesome descriptions of secret compartments that send a chill down the spine. Wow -- that's all I can say about what you'll find on the other side of the secret door!

Adrian is a master story teller with much to teach aspiring authors of horror/suspense fiction.

I will keep reading his treasures.

Iris (Paranormal Cravings Book Reviews) says

I love (for me) new authors. The Wolf at His Door is the first one I have read by Adrian Lilly. The Wolf at His Door is a lovely and thrilling Gay Paranormal Romance. Alec one of the brothers of an identical twins is facing a horror while exploring his interest in Jared.

I have to admit it was a little of a struggle to get in to the story. Some places where too much described that it broke my concentration to get in to it. Like descriptions of kitchen and hallways that where not really necessary for that part of the book. And I also had some troubles keeping the characters separated in the beginning, especially the twins with the similar names, Alec and Adam in the middle of all the other characters that follow in a rap tempo the first pages. But after that the story soon got me hooked and ready to go. With its great world-building and fun dialogues, action and paranormal characters, Adrian Lilly ready did his best to make this a fun and thrilling book to read. With teasing scenes like a shirt-less frisbee game and steamy kiss scenes and of course the thrilling/investigation scènes.

I am looking forward to read more about Alec and Jared and his inexperience and a bit disappointed that Adrian skipped the fun bed part. But on the other hand even more interesting to keep reading. Page after page a real page turner!

I hope to read more from this series. It is good there are 2 more coming up! I certainly will keep my eye on Adrian Lilly and his Runes Trilogy!

Pixie Mmgoodbookreviews says

5 Hearts

Review written for MM Good Book Reviews

When Alec meets Jared, a chain of events begins that brings heartache and horror into his world. Alec is dragged from his safe world when a secret from his mother's past comes calling, and that secret is determined to get what he wants. As his friends and family are brutally attacked Alec struggles with what is happening and even as he gets close to Jared he still finds it hard to accept the fanciful truth that Jared tells him, but Alec will have to face the truth and trust Jared if he is to beat the evil that stalks him.

This is a brilliant paranormal horror story that has pretty graphic details and a wonderful storyline. Jared discovered first-hand what Alec faces and is hoping to help Alec before tragedy strikes, but he wants more than to be just friends. Alec doesn't know what to believe but he can't keep away from Jared, now they face a danger that comes from the past, a past that his mother has kept well hidden. The police are looking into the disappearances of numerous people and brutal killings and there is a link to a body missing from the morgue.... and Alec, but there is no way the police would ever believe the truth even if Alec did know what was going on.

I really enjoyed this story; it called to that part of me that enjoys horror and gore. This brilliant storyline starts as boy gets set up with boy and hits it off, it then quickly moves on with the danger and horror seeping in and we discover secrets of the past. There's a whole host of characters who are involved in this story and all their parts are important and whose point of view we also see the story from, we have Ilene (Alec's mother) who made a mistake that now haunts her, we have Lucy (Alec's sister) who is dragged into the horror along with her boyfriend Rene. Then we have the police detectives who are trying to piece together the clues in their cases where Alec's name keeps cropping up.

This story is so far from your typical werewolf story. In fact, if you are looking for a sweet fluffy read with wolves finding mates and living happily ever after, after a bit of angst and conflict then don't even think of picking up this book. But if you want something that's dark and dangerous with bloodshed and horror then this story is a must.

I loved how this story was written, you get pulled into the story from the first pages, and it makes you keep turning the pages even when you know something horrific is coming. We see an astonishing amount of emotions in this story with guilt, fear, anger, horror, grief and heartbreak being the main contenders, we do see some happiness but not much as events seem to steamroll out of control.

The werewolf in this story is the stuff of nightmares, returning to the original folklore of them in the past where they were true monsters. This story is a part of something bigger, as you learn throughout the book, and even as they have a semblance of a happy ending you know it is far from over for them all.

I have to recommend this to those that love horror, dark paranormal, a brilliant storyline, great characters, a love that evolves even with danger and horror raining down, and an ending that makes you wonder what comes next.

Wendy-Book Lovers 4Ever says

There are interesting twist and turns all through this book. If you are looking for a sweet love story with a handsome wolf who finds his HEA, keep looking. Oh, there is a HEA but not the kind that you expect. The writing keeps you pulled into this great story, be warned that you might miss sleep staying up late reading this book. Alec is not the normal main character that wants to sweep everything under the rug and only concentrate on his needs, he knows to find his twin brother's killer he needs to deal with life how it is. Lucy, his older sister sets him up on a blind date with Jared, he never thought he would feel an attraction to a man who has the same exact eye colors as he does. When Alec's brother is murdered and Lucy's boyfriend is attacked by a werewolf, Alec thinks he is loosing his mind. When Jared explains to him that everything he thinks he saw really happened things start to speed up in his life and secrets come out that his Mom wanted to keep buried forever.

One of my favorite things about an author requesting a review is the communication between the two of us and this book proved how important that open line of communication can be. I was reading the book and the story started taking me towards a story line I was not ready to cross- lol (we all have those lines) But I was able to email Adrian and ask if this certain thing was going to happen and the answer came back as "Do you want me to tell you or do you like surprises?" Well my answer- "No I don't like surprises PLEASE tell me." So Adrian was kind enough to give me my answers without spoiling anything with the story. Also if I would have read one more chapter my questions would have been answered, but I still felt better knowing the answers *g*

Roger Kean says

Good clear narrative drive which gives this shape-shifter a fresh, different feel from those of the genre I've read before. The two main characters are gay and meant for each other in a way which is not the usual trope, but this is a story in which being gay is merely their state and definitely not their problem, in other words, low-key. A tense set of traditional horror sequences builds tension and pace throughout, and I have only a mild reservation that the discovery of what's going on could have been a bit tighter, a bit sooner revealed.

Christina says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review (LoP)

Wow! I was really taken by surprise by this book. Judging by the description, I was expecting huggable, lovable, Twilight werewolves. Nope!! Not in the least. I freakin' adored this book from start to finish.

I loved the combination of action, suspense, thriller, just a tad of romance. Adrian pulls in the reader in the opening prologue and keeps them sitting on the edge of their seat throughout the entire story! It was so sad but yet so good. Definitely cannot wait until book 2!

I LOVED in the interactions between Alec and Jared, their back n' forth banter which only added to the tension between the two of them.

The bittersweet relationship between Lucy and Rene; couldn't help but detect underlying racism in how the Rune parents treated Rene - or lack of.

I think this book would make a very good movie!

Bob Milne says

As opening scenes go, *The Wolf at His Door* has one hell of a kick-ass means of dragging us, kicking and screaming, into the story. It all begins with a flashback to a pregnant mother, suffering from both physical and emotional distress, convinced that something is terribly wrong with her unborn child. It's a chilling scene, and one in which this woman attempts some unspeakable acts in an attempt to end the life eating her alive from the inside.

I thought I knew what to expect from Adrian Lilly's pitch, but was excited to discover that this is a full-on, hardcore horror novel - with a strong undercurrent of mystery. It goes to some very dark places, and takes some exceptionally violent roads to get there. Werewolves are often wasted in the genre, used to symbolize some sort of internal struggle, but Lilly lets the wild side of the monsters loose. They are allowed to be monstrous here, to be wild and fearsome, with matted fur and bloody fangs contributing to the carnage.

Similarly, where I expected the gay romance to be more of a factor here, with a strong connection between coming out as either gay or wolf, it's less of a plot device and more of a character element. Lilly doesn't devote a lot of attention to building up the romance, and simply drops the sexuality angle into the story, with no time wasted on big revelations. Alec and Jared are friends who happen to be gay, but it's their friendship that's central to the story, not the romance.

If I were to have one complaint about the novel, it's that the characters don't always make a lot of sense, and fall prey to poor decisions again and again. There were numerous instances where I thought they were slow to react, or where I felt their response to the horror and carnage around them was somewhat muted. It's a shame, because the story itself is strong, and the horror element is fantastic, and I think stronger character reactions would have really helped to sell the fear.

With *The Wolf at His Door* being the first book of a trilogy, there's a lot of world-building and mythology that's hinted at, but not yet fully developed, and that's a bit of a frustration. The plot is both deep and complex, with some creative twists (including those not yet fully revealed), while the gruesome scenes are superb, especially when contrasted against the few romantic/erotic elements. You can sense this larger story beneath it all, though, one that has much larger implications than just a family struggle, but it seems we'll have to wait for the next two books to have it fully developed. What is here, however, is interesting enough to make me want to keep reading, and that's about all you can ask for the opening stanza to a larger tale.

Originally reviewed at Beauty in Ruins

Clarissa says

Also at Scrollin' Them Papers

Like I always said, the MM romance community *needs* to broaden their own genre. Well, of course that

could just be me and my dying need for some gay high fantasy and paranormal romance fix.

Anyway.

Wolf at His Door is something that is totally new and incredibly intriguing. It started a little slow and the climax buildup might be too much for some, as everyone and I mean *everyone* seemed to have their own little agenda. Some were resolved, while others weren't at all, that left quite confused and vexed to be honest. Until I realised I still have two more books coming!

The only one that seemed totally clueless was their dad, Jason, and I felt bad for the poor sod most of the time. And of course the rest of the characters :\

That being said, it was such an awesome thriller and paranormal, it kept you own your toes after you passed that lulling period at the beginning. So, perseverance guys!

I was so glad that Alec still had more dimensions than most thriller characters I had encountered. He could still act stupid, think and be snarky when I almost expected him to fall flat and just ride the thrill out.

Jared on the other hand, was such a sweet guy, I loved that if you pay close enough attention, you'd see his vulnerability here and there, mostly when concerning Alec.

Don't expect much on the romance department though guys, there's none of those graphic stuff at all and little touching. You can though expect to see sweet little moments and banters as the story folds :D I do believe that Alec and Jared's relationship was too abrupt and a bit doubtful. The insta-love, although nice, was not really developed in my opinion. I look forward to see more of them in the next instalments, because Jared and Alec together are just too damn sweet. In a good way.

He pulled back and smiled.

"That was okay."

"That was barely a kiss," Jared said.

I received this copy from the LoP R2R program in exchange of an honest review.

Shalini says

There are two kinds of books on werewolves one is romance and other thriller. This book by Adrian Lilly was pure thriller with bits of horror thrown in. There was massive adrenaline infused in this book that had me rushing through its pages.

The intrigue and mystery about how human and werewolf intertwined were kept under the covers until the very end.

Mother Ilene had a secret which nearly caused to kill herself and the child she was carrying. Flashforward to the future, and twins Alec and Adam and sister Lucy were leading a normal life till Adam was murdered and Lucy's boyfriend Rene and Alec were grievously injured, and certain facts came to light.

The first book in the series by Adrian Lilly had me hooked to the book the entire afternoon wanting to get to the bottom of the mystery. The fast pace had me holding my breath, I loved the gory gruesome scenes. I loved the werewolf Darius, he was a big and scary creature who mutilated humans and he remained true to his character. I was so happy that I was scared of him but wanted more fear in the book.

Then came my niggles from mid-half of the book, the characters were weird in their reactions especially Alec. He had seen and fought with the werewolf and yet refused to believe or take action. Even with evidence in front of him, he was blind. Lucy was awesome in the latter half. Alec's love interest Jared played his part, but his reactions spaced me out.

Complex plot with scary experiments, butchered humans made this book a rocking ride in most parts.

Daniel Kelly says

So The Wolf at His Door promises to be the first book in a trilogy of gay werewolf horror by author Adrian W. Lilly. And I can't wait to read the continuing story.

When I first started reading the book, I expected this to be a light and fluffy gay teen paranormal romance as I'd seen it described. And I was willing to go with that. But I think that categorization does The Wolf at His Door a huge injustice from a horror angle. Lilly seriously delivers the hardcore werewolf action! I was shocked and thrilled to find this was a full-fledged horror novel. If you're looking for any kind of fluff other than werewolf butt hair, you've come to the wrong place.

So in short, the story is about a young man coming to terms with the fact that he might be...a lycanthrope. He already knows he's gay, so this is thankfully not another teen coming out story. His sister and friends have introduced him to a new guy. As their romance heats up, his family struggles with a big secret, teens start to disappear—and no one seems to be safe. And the young man begins to suspect his new boyfriend might be hiding something as well....

The Wolf at His Door features a complex and twisting plot that never loses steam, with relatable and likeable characters, some seriously gruesome deaths and horror scenes, incredibly written suspense, and even some highly erotic scenes. It's as exciting and fast-paced as a movie or TV show. Adrian W. Lilly has a visual style of writing that makes the book read like a movie.

If you like Teen Wolf or movies like Cursed, you will definitely appreciate this one. It has that kind of teen horror vibe. And the horror is just beginning....

BooksandBeyondFiftyShades says

Ilene Rune has lived with a secret for years, now everything is on the line. How will she tell her son Alec the secret she knows Jared is keeping.

In walks Detective Lance Herald he enters a world of fantasy that shakes his core beliefs.

When Alec awakes from a coma to find out his twin has been murdered? He remembers nothing. The concept already has me ready to download the book.

I was sucked into the book from the very first chapter. This book is not what I was expecting. It was better. This book is well written with multiple plot twists and turns. I felt like I was watching a movie not reading a book. I really enjoyed the suspense at every turn. I'm really into horror movies and this book was one of the best movie I've ever read.

I would highly recommend this book.

Antony Simpson says

From AntonySimpson.com:

In *The Wolf at His Door* by Adrian Lilly, events are about to unfold in Alec's life that will change it forever.

Alec is an out gay man and his twin brother Adam is straight; both are College Students and live at home with their parents – Ilene & Jason. Their older sister Lucy lives with her partner Rene nearby. Also close is their grandmother – Geraldine, a woman who has psychic 'vibrations' when something bad is going to happen.

With Geraldine's vibrations getting worse, Alec's friends Sam & Celeste introduce him to Jared. Then Sam & Celeste are brutally murdered.

The Prologue is overly dramatic, too descriptive and far too long. But once past that you discover Lilly's wonderfully engaging writers voice and his third person writing style that switches between characters perspectives. His writers voice and storytelling makes *The Wolf at His Door* an easy read that becomes highly addictive as the reader reads on.

The story is told in three parts. In part one Lilly introduces the characters, Alec's friend's are brutally murdered in the night at a cabin in the woods and people are going missing. Part two deals with the aftermath of the murders, the Police start their murder investigation, green-eyed evil Darius targets Alec and the investigation of the missing people is ongoing.

In the third and final part Alec & Co. start their own investigation as to what's going on. This leads to an absolutely epic ending and sets out the direction for the 2nd book. The love interest for Alec adds to the story. Overall the storyline was outstandingly captivating, oozes brilliance and is well paced.

The description was perfectly measured throughout; although it did have a few Americanism's that Lilly could have minimised or removed for more universal appeal. There were a few minor errors in dialogue formatting. But neither the Americanism's or the errors in the dialogue formatting interrupted the flow of the storyline.

Throughout the story there is a good mix of scenes: slow ones that evoke an emotional response, investigation ones that ignite the mind with questions and fast-paced action scenes that grip the reader.

By the end of The Wolf at His Door the reader has many answered questions; but some are left unanswered – which is what will make the trilogy enthralling.

The Wolf at His Door (The Runes Trilogy) by Adrian Lilly is essentially a werewolf, gay, mystery novel. An enjoyable read that makes the reader impatient for the release of the 2nd book in the trilogy.

The book is only available in eformat; but this makes it perfect to read on the bus, train or tube to work. The chapters are short meaning you could read several on the way to work. However you will find yourself reading on the way home as well – desperate to find out what happens next.

Sandra says

I wanna start by pointing out how many 4 and 5 star reviews there are for this book. But unfortunately I was left feeling rather... ambivalent.

The Story: The basic premise of this is unique, I can't say too much more than that as information is revealed to the reader at an appropriate pace. We're given just enough to clue us in to some things, while still aware there is so much we're not seeing yet. Alec is different, although it's unclear initially why as he seems normal enough. But we started off with the POV of his pregnant mother freaking out that something isn't right inside her with her unborn child, so this keys us in immediately.

The Format: Although Alec and Jared are our main characters, we often see from other people's perspective. It can at times be a bit much, but the author does a good job of keeping these interludes short just to give us the minimal information we need. We see from every known characters perspective, as well as a few that play into the 'missing persons' side of things.

I had this classified as 'horror', but really it read more like a mystery to me. I was never really scared, even though there are certainly several gruesome scenes they don't go into too much detail with the gore. And I found myself not having as strong of an emotional response as I should have had (view spoiler)

Where this story lost me a bit, was the relationship and total lack of chemistry between Alec and Jared. I would not describe this as a romance in any way, but even if there are two people developing a romantic relationship during a horror or mystery novel, I need to feel that pull. I need to see them come together in times of crises and I need to see them lean on each other in despair. I didn't get that. Alec was aloof to Jared at first, then they hook up, then Jared blurts out his big reveal, then despite *tons* of evidence (aka: bodies piling up) to the contrary, Alec starts being kind of a dick to Jared about it and is in an unrealistic amount of denial, then someone blurts the L-bomb, the end. To me this story would not have been any different if they had simply been friends. Or even if Jared had just been some guy.

And speaking of Alec's unrealistic amounts of denial, that is one of several things that I wasn't buying. Along with that, the fact that one person in particular has dead bodies piling up around him and the cops offered *no* police protection *whatsoever*. In fact, they were pretty much absent until after someone dies. Non-major characters lives don't seem to matter all that much to these guys (view spoiler), and the killers motivations are sort of explained, but not entirely (view spoiler)

Received from the publisher in exchange for an honest review, reviewed for Hearts On Fire

Shona says

2.5 stars

Things I liked:

- Lucy and Geraldine, bless their hearts.
- a werewolf story taken in a new direction, mystery and intrigue!
- an enjoyable plot, I'm looking forward to the next book so I can see what happens.

Things I didn't like:

- chemistry between Jared and Alec? I didn't see any.
- the writing was clunky. Short sentences that felt more like info dumping than telling a story.
- oh gosh that cover. That poor, poor book cover.

Despite all the good points this book has going for it, to me, it felt very unforgettable and not all that enjoyable to read. I wanted to like it, I really did, but there were a lot of little things that just got in the way of that. I found myself connecting more with the side characters and less with Alec and Jared. I'm hoping Lucy plays a bigger part, because I don't care much for her brother and his creepy boyfriend.
