



She Wulf (Annie Loves Cham, #2)

Sheryl Steines

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He comes through the centuries to find her, the girl who could save them all. Alone in a the future and a foreign land, he must trust the coven's magic to find the girl in the prophecy, the one who will rid his people of the demons which cannot be killed. Annie Pearce runs through the streets of the city, chasing a demon, the likes she has never seen before. After finally capturing the creature, she works to find out where it comes from and how to destroy the monster. Cham Chamsky follows a lead and discovers a mystery man in the forest near where the demon was found. This is no ordinary man. He is a Viking—a man from the past—thirteen centuries in the past. Annie and Cham don't believe in coincidence, and know the demon and Viking are somehow related. With the demon imprisoned and the Viking on the loose, it is essential they learn the origins of the strange pair in order to protect the non- magical world from their presence. In a startling twist of fate, the Viking Kolgaar, drags Annie through a portal to the past, and she learns of the prophecy that has foretold her destiny, one she didn't know she had. She must rid the ancient England of the regenerating demons—especially Gergalina, the largest and meanest of all the horrible creatures. The monsters have terrorized the Vikings and the coven, destroying everything in their path. When the prophecy was read, there was hope for the first time in centuries. Annie struggles with her new destiny as she adjusts to life in the past, and tries to figure out figures a way to destroy the un-killable demons with the help of her faithful partner Spencer. It is a purpose she must fulfill if she is ever to return home. She Wulf is the follow-up novel to The Day of First Sun, the first novel by Sheryl Steines. Continue the adventure of Annie and Cham as they set out to save the world one more time.

She Wulf (Annie Loves Cham, #2) Details

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Author : Sheryl Steines

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From Reader Review *She Wulf* (Annie Loves Cham, #2) for online ebook

Melissa Storm says

Annie Pearce has been trained to combat and capture the dangerous paranormal creatures living alongside humans. When a werewolf rampages through a peaceful neighborhood, Annie does everything in her power to sedate and bring it in to Tartarus Prison, a place where anything from demons to vampires are held. Despite the capture, Annie isn't pleased. The werewolf, a female, is dressed as though from another era, and didn't come to the twenty-first century alone.

Just as she tries to piece together who the werewolf is, a strange man garbed like a Viking kidnaps Annie and drags her to the eleventh century. Werewolves are taking over England in the past, and if she can't stop them, there won't be much left of humanity to return to...if she can get back to her own time at all.

She Wulf by Sheryl Steines inspires myth and legend to life as Annie fights her way back to the present while struggling to come to terms with the sudden loss of her magical powers. Readers will adore Annie's tenacity and determination to save the populace of the eleventh century, as well as enjoy the well-paced plot and witty dialogue. The characters will stick with readers long after they've turned the final page of *She Wulf*, and have them wondering what Annie's next adventure will be.

P.S. Sheryl is a marketing client, which means I can't ethically assign a rating :-)

Pam says

I received a copy of this book for an honest review. Anne is trying to get used to working with her new partner Spencer since her and Cham can't work together anymore. Cham has a new partner as well Gibbs. After capturing a mysterious Demon and capturing it. She begins to study and finds its kind hasn't been seen in a very long time. There is also the mysterious appearance of a Viking that showed up about the same time. As the four of them finally meet up with the Viking he grabs Anne and takes her back in time with Spencer along for the ride. She is told she can defeat the demons but that is about all the help she receives. Cham, Gibbs and all their friends and coworkers try to figure out why this all seems so familiar and worry about what is going on. Anne and Cham are pushed to their limits each with their own worries. Anne must be made stronger and it's a long hard road.

I enjoyed this book very much. It has a great feel to it and a Viking kidnapping a woman back in time to battle demons is very original and different. You see Anne really struggle in this book and everyone seems to be keeping secrets from her. Spencer really steps up in this book and is there for Anne doing all he can. Gibbs is so headstrong and usually rushes into things. Cham has close to an emotional breakdown worrying about Anne. This story has lots of action and keeps you on your toes wondering if Anne will ever return to the future. I do wish we could have seen more of Anne and Cham together but it shows them to their selves more so you get a good feel for each of their characters. If you want a different type paranormal book give this a try. It has vikings, witches, demons and mixed together for a great story.

Sam says

2.5/5

I will start by saying that I did not care much for this book. It is filled with action, and yet I found myself bored. I can't quite put my finger on why this is, because it is practically non-stop action scenes for the first few chapters and doesn't slow down much after that. But, still, I was bored through pretty much the entire novel.

I couldn't connect with any of the characters, which made the story less interesting to me. The characters are developed well enough, but I just didn't find myself caring much about them or their lives. The quality of writing is good, but I think it's lacking in story-telling abilities. It didn't succeed in capturing my interest as it should have, considering the action-packed storyline. It's told in third person, which I am not a fan of, but each to his/her own.

I love the cover. It encompasses the story quite well--the main heroin Annie shrouded in fire as she fights her way through the demons. Overall, I did not enjoy this book. I also found it a bit overkill on how it included all of the following: magic, wizards, witches, demons, vampires, and time travel--too much fantastical elements for one story, in my opinion. Fans of third person narrative as well as all the elements just mentioned might like this book, if they don't feel like I do (about it being overkill). I, personally, just didn't care for the book.

This review also published on SIK Book Reviews

Rebecca says

What *She Wulf* gives us is a Harry Potter type world where a whole sub culture of supernatural beings is governed by the Wizard Government in America. This government has it's headquarters in the heart of Chicago. The huge building that houses all branches of this sub culture's government, along with schools and anything else you can think of to cover wizard type affairs, is masqueraded into a nondescript building. That of course we mortals have no idea exists.

The story centers on the lead character Annie. She is a detective in the wizard policing world and the love interest of Cham, her long time boyfriend and former partner. After the chance investigation of a regenerating demon and the discovery of a talisman that is an apparent portal in time, we learn that Annie herself just might be connected to the past. What follows is a race to save Annie and bring her back to her century.

This book is nothing short of fast paced and full of action. It blends all forms of supernatural creatures and throws in a healthy dose of time travel and romance. The writing is on point and easy to follow. The story was engaging and held my attention. The most original part of the story came for me with the vikings. It was an unexpected addition to this type of story line.

Read this book while you have a chance to take advantage of the special offers with this tour. It was the perfect end of summer read.

Lisette says

For as long as she can remember, Annie Pearce has worked for the Wizard Guard in securing criminals and demons that seek to disrupt the world she lives in. Keeping non-magical folk clueless as to the fact that she can work magic hasn't been an easy feat either. The council is adamant that no one must know of their true existence, despite the fact that they use their powers for the greater good.

After a past fiasco causes her to be reassigned, Annie isn't sure as to whether her new partner is up to the task. He doesn't know her very well, something she knows she should rectify, but can't quite find it within herself to do so. Spencer is a good guy, but he isn't Cham, her beloved boyfriend and former partner. Cham knows exactly how she works and what she needs, when she needs it. Unfortunately, she'll never have the chance of working with him again anytime soon.

When a demon and a tenth century Viking turn up unexpectedly, it's up to Annie and her team to discover the reasons behind their odd sightings. There's something afoot, but she can't quite put her finger on what that is. At least, not yet. An unexpected talisman also lands within her hands, one that's sure to tie the demon and the Viking together. Unfortunately, time is of the essence, prompting Annie to discover their secrets post-haste before something else goes awry.

Pulled into the past with Spencer in tow, Annie soon discovers that things are much worse in this version of England than they are in the future itself. The city is being overrun by werewolves and she's somehow tied to the situation at hand. Discovering that link proves to be much more daunting than she thought it would be. Yet she knows she'll need to set things straight if she and Spencer are to make their way back home soon enough.

This is the continuation of *The Day Of First Sun*. In this story, we learn that Annie's life has taken a very different turn. She and Cham have been separated in hopes keeping them apart so that they can better grasp the work they do. The pain and heartache of their separation is very palpable and it makes the reader want to see them get back to working as partners. Granted, Spencer does deserve a chance at proving himself to Annie, something he does quite beautifully throughout the story itself and soon makes reader to want to cheer him on at every turn of the page. While the story does end on a little cliffhanger, I do think it sets the stage for comes next. I look forward to see how the next part of Annie's story truly takes flight.

Dorine White says

The Story- Annie and Cham are back, and this time they aren't fighting vampires and evil wizards, but chasing demons and witches back in the past.

It all begins when a Viking comes to town. His goal- to capture Annie and bring her back to the 1600's England to fight regenerating demons. But, due to a mishap, he catches not only Annie, but her new partner Spencer. Together they are taken to a Viking village and introduced to a coven of witches that accidentally created the demons that are now killing them.

In the present time, Cham is going crazy trying to figure out a way to bring Annie safely home. His search through ancient books reveals a prophecy from the past about Anaise, a young wizard female who killed demons. It is a shock to find out that Anaise, is really Annie.

Back in the past the witches make Annie extremely ill with a potion, telling her that it will help her gain power. But the truth is that it might just plain kill her. Will she survive? And can Cham find a way to bring her home?

My Thoughts- It was good, just like the first one. The character of Annie is strong and independent, while showing a wonderfully loving side with Cham. The portrayal of their romance is so sweet, and the author does a good job fleshing it out, so the reader really does feel like they'd do anything for each other.

The fact that the story jumps to the past is fun. I liked seeing how the Vikings and witches lived. The most interesting part was Annie's notice of how quiet everything was, and it disturbed her. I think I'd feel that way too.

The story is full of twists and turns. At first you don't know what is going on with the Viking. As soon as you figure it out, you're in the past trying to figure out the secret of the witch coven. In the present you're solving the Anaise mystery right alongside of Cham. And of course, the big mystery is how Annie will kill all the demons.

Critically I did have a few concerns. First off, the title of the book threw me. It's not very interesting and sounds more like a female cartoon character, than a wizard battling evil. I wouldn't have picked it up if I saw it on a shelf. I know the author was going for a Beowulf thing, but it didn't work for me.

Second, there were several errors that should have been picked up by an editor. There is just a handful, but it was enough to throw me out of the book each time.

Last, the author decides to switch to the Viking's point of view towards the very end of the book- totally unnecessary and out of place.

Overall though, I was impressed that this self published book did such a good job. The story is full and entertaining and a great sequel to the first book. I think both books are worth a read.

Phaedra Seabolt says

I read the first book in this series, *The Day of First Sun*, about a month ago. The story was unique then and I found this one to be just as entertaining. Annie Pearce and her boyfriend Cham Chamsky are Wizard Guard. They are wizards who protect the existence of the supernatural and keep wizards from abusing their powers. Cham is being groomed to take over the entire department and Annie is considered one of the best wizards they have. Together they are pretty much unstoppable, however now that they are dating, they can no longer work as partners. The emotional bond they have makes them do risky things in order to protect one another. Their relationship can actually be a danger to everyone else around them. Due to this, they have been assigned new partners which they are getting used to in this book. Initially, it feels as if they are going to end up working as one group of four since Cham cannot be unaware of what Annie is doing.

They both end up on two cases that collide and result in a portal into past being opened up and Annie, along with her partner Spencer, get sucked back in time. Cham is left depressed beyond belief because the love of his life may never be able to return. He and his partner Gibbs have to find a way to go back in time to exactly the same place that Annie and Spencer have gone to. Annie and Spencer on the other hand have to learn how to deal with Vikings, an ancient coven of witches, and regenerating demons. How will Annie and Cham ever be together again? What is the destiny and prophecy that keep being mentioned? Can Annie actually destroy an entire race of regenerating demons in order to save the human race? You will have to read to find out the answers to these questions. I thought the story was exciting and entertaining. I really enjoy reading Sheryl Steines's take on wizards. The ending was extremely shocking and I really am wondering where the story is going from here.

Check out my other reviews at Identity Discovery Blog.

Nai says

Day of First Sun was one of the first book reviews I did after I started blogging again this January.

I'd like to think I've gotten better since then & here's why.

Day of First Sun was a spectacular read, but I don't think I went into depth as much as I could have. So, for She Wulf, I've decided to be more thorough.

I'll start, with the prologue, and by stating that the narration of this book reads like Poe. It is descriptive genius at its best.

Thick white clouds gathered at the center of the library. It floated toward the highest shelf, where a book shook and sputtered as it ate away the heavy mist. As the last of the vapor lifted, a white, hot light flashed before burning out, leaving the book on its shelf as it had for centuries.

What's not to love about that? It makes a great opening, similar to The Fall of the House of Usher, and lets the reader step into fantasy-land. I find there are two reactions to the way in which fantasy/sci-fi authors set up their worlds. One involves creating the world by slowly/descriptively infusing physical parameters into the world. The other sort of pukes it all out onto the page then smacks the reader with a stick and says 'IDIOT, don't you know how my world works?'

She Wulf world - no puking there. It's glorious blissful narration adds elements at a pace that is sort-of like think painting.

I think therefore it appears

Puke vs. Poof.

[image error]

Puffy cat is not amused, but I sure am

Think painting - I think therefore it appears.

That (think painting) reminds me of another aspect of Sheryl Steines' writing which is the closest thing to magic I've read in a long time.

That quite simply is her ability to instantly portray tone and personality through dialogue. I will admit that at one point, I loved the show Friends. I can still tolerate it in a background noise way, similar to other sitcoms. This book, has the magic that Friends did, they actually jump off the page (very quickly I might add) as a group of friends who are intimately attached, and believe in each other. (Each in their own unique/magical/quirky way.)

Cham, Annie, Spencer and everyone else actually - even if only characters in passing emerge from the page with an entire multi-faceted personality in place. I'm sure that there is some of my own placing of attributes and qualities onto everyone, but part of an enjoyable read is being able to identify with everyone in the book in some way.

Steines' writing is as magical as all the characters in the book put together. Her prowess is a super-magic being that transcends all others.

Fundamentally the book is a stoic force to conquer all others in it's path. It reads like a movie script waiting to be made, and I haven't even given you the basic plot line.

On the path of movieness, there are vikings, deamons, and a myriad of other creatures that inhabit the world of magic that would make for some great programming and effects in a full length movie. Think star trek ship porn, but with magical creatures.

There's enough action that my heart began racing while I was reading it. It was simply wonderful to read a book that was as fast paced as I needed it to be. There's a portal - and in my experience (reading maybe not in real life?) portals are never a good thing. They lead somewhere, but they tend to be tricky bastards that don't lead back to the same place, or disappear and have to be re-opened. Portals bring about misery, though they also often give in and let us come back after a lengthy battle even if it's just a battle of wills. I hope, that Annie and Cham will always win.

I'm not telling. NA, na, na-na, na.

In my world (which could be arguably small) Star trek sits a-top the peak of things I enjoy. She Wulf, has climbed to a perch sitting slightly below, but very close to all my star trek love. I haven't loved a sci-fi world much more than Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles and Anne McCaffrey's Crystal singer & Pern series. This book joins that crowd.

Can you tell I have a thing for strong narratives and multi-faceted characters?

[caption id="" align="aligncenter" width="500"] [image error]

Amy Joynes says

Review completed as part of the She Wulf Blog tour. For Prize details and full review see:
<http://teenyreader.blogspot.co.uk/201...>

Good Points:

I thought the characters were built up well and the author had definitely made it clear that Annie and Cham will do anything for each other. I liked the whole plot of bringing the Viking in, quite original there and I thought the plot line of going back in time was really unique, I've not read many books that do this and it's really nice to see the contrasts between the two places. The book follows on from The Day of first Sun which is the prequel com in the series. To be honest I didn't know this, but despite this I still quickly managed to gain the basic plot to the story without reading the first book. I think the author has to be congratulated on this because this is a hard thing to do, usually I'm left clueless when this happens but I knew exactly who everyone was and just from the few moments at the beginning alone you just know that Cham and Annie are meant for each other!

Bad Points:

There were some moments where I didn't like one character or another just simply because of their attitude and I thought Cham could get a little Annie-sick after a while missing her which although showed how much he loved her got a tiny little bit on my nerves. But that was it I swear!

To Sum Up...

To be honest I thought this book was a good little read, I'm definitely going to seek out the first part of Cham and Annie's story to see what happens there, though I think I may have spoiled the ending to that one already after reading this book. The character changing perspectives was a nice touch and added extra detail to each characters perspective and emotions, I especially loved the Vikings, just because well...he's a Viking! And if that doesn't add brownie points for coolness then what will?

Carmen says

My review is based on a copy that was provided to me for a blog tour.
You can also find the review on my blog [here](#).

Review (no spoilers):

First off, I have to admit that I did not like this one as much as I had hoped I would. The premise sounded interesting and like there would be a lot of action, but somehow I wasn't quite pulled in and I had problems with parts of the plot. That said, the novel shows solid world building and there were descriptive passages that made me sigh with happiness and wish the whole book was written that way.

When I first started reading She Wulf, I was not aware that this book is a re-telling of Beowulf from the perspective of a woman as hero. Sure, the author has taken liberties and set the book in the present day with a time-travelling adventure element, but many aspects of the old legend are still in place. This brings me to another aspect that I liked about this book: the world-building was very well done! I know a bit about England in the 1000s from my Old English course and actually translated a part of Beowulf, too, and Steines did a good job at bringing that world to life in a believable way. Also the Wizard Guard (some kind of

magical police), their lifestyle, and the magic Annie and the other characters can do was well thought through and made me want to know more of how the wizards interact with ordinary humans and about their history.

My main problem, though, was that I just couldn't connect with any of the characters, so quite often I didn't really care all that much about what was happening to them. The novel is written in the third person, which makes sense because the perspective alternates between Annie (stuck in the past) and Cham or one of the other wizards in the present who are trying to get her back. Though I prefer first person narratives, I usually have no problem connecting with characters portrayed from a third person perspective if the reader still gets believable insight into their feelings and thoughts. But here, I somehow felt more like a distanced outside observer. Another problem with giving the reader such an omniscient perspective was that many new discoveries the characters make are told twice because both groups, past and present, need to find out about them. This made me feel like the book was dragging, especially in the middle.

Maybe if I had read the prequel and knew how Cham and Annie got together, I would have cared more about them and rooted for their relationship. But having only read *She Wulf*, I didn't really see any chemistry between them and was largely indifferent to Cham's grief when he was left behind in the present. I wished he would stop moaning and moping around her desk and actually do something, like the others! I lost count of how often he cried or had tears in his eyes. I like it when men show some feelings, but he just came across as weak and unable to take action on his own. I cared more about Spencer, Annie's newly assigned partner, who always looked out for her and took care of her when she got sick in the Viking's village. Later, when it is revealed that Annie is part of an ancient prophecy and actually supposed to be in the past to fulfill her destiny, I must admit that I didn't understand why it was so important that Cham get to her at all. I felt like he didn't trust her to get the job done.

What I enjoyed was that part of the story was told from the Viking's perspective! I really liked his voice and the glimpse inside his head I got with that, and it was interesting to see Annie through his eyes. Generally I liked the parts that dealt with the Viking village and their relations to the Coven of magicians (the two don't really get on). Both groups kept secrets from Annie and Spencer and trying to figure out who was friend and who was foe kept me guessing. I also liked the descriptions of the demon attacks on the village a lot, they were realistic. The way to defeat the demons, though, was something I thought the Coven should have been able to figure out on their own, without bringing in help from a thousand years in the future.

Overall, this novel shows great ideas for creating a magical world parallel to our own, good historical research, and a well-structured plot arc. The characterization and some of the story-telling narrative aspects just weren't for me. I think I'm not romantic enough. If you're a fan of lovers parted and trying to find a way back to each other across space and time you should give it a chance though. The mixture of demons, old English lore, wizards, magic, portals, spells, and time travelling is pretty unique!

I don't like giving this one a 'meh' review, but I also want to be honest. I hope I could provide a fair assessment of what I thought were the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Judging from some of the other reviews I've read I think it just wasn't my cup of coffee.

Erin says

Find this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot....>

I liked Sheryl Steines' *She Wulf* a lot in terms of plot, but I wasn't entirely sold on other aspects of the book. Some of this might be due to my having skipped book one of the series, but the elements I didn't appreciate seemed structural in that they felt underdeveloped within the context of the story.

Many reviewers have claimed to feel real chemistry between Annie and Cham, but I didn't see it. Forgive me, but it seemed a very one-sided affair in my eyes. Cham reads as an adoring, almost obsessive, devotee. For her part, Annie is tolerant, but the affection she returns feels lukewarm at best. From what I understand, the relationship is prominent in book one of the series and had I not bypassed the novel, I might have had a greater understanding and appreciation for the dynamic between these characters, but as it stands, something struck me as missing from their relationship.

Magic is something of an ambiguous concept in fiction. I can understand that, but I still like to see some effort put towards explaining its nature and function. "We could divine for them using a written timeline like a map... I think it should work just like a map once I link it to a crystal. I can use the fabric from the demon." Say what? There is no explanation to how this works! How does one link a crystal to anything? Are we to assume the crystal is also linked to the fabric? I needed explanation.

I'm obviously a picky reader, but the book is not entirely without merit. Steines' combining of Nordic and Anglo Saxon culture and mythology was a stroke of genius. It's not the page-turner I was anticipating, but its adaptation of *Beowulf* is noteworthy in its own way.

KyBunnies says

When I was offered the chance to read this book shortly after reading *Day of First Sun*, I jumped at the chance. I could not wait to read the sequel. *Day of First Sun* was such an amazing book. I wondered how the author would take the following book and keep it as interesting as the first. Well, I was not let down by the author. She can throw in flying color on this second book. I know you want to know more about the book than listen to my random talk. Okay, I will shut up about everything else.

She Wulf does not start out where *Day of First Sun* ended. Annie is the same sweet caring person. Cham is now her overprotective boyfriend. They are not partners any longer but they still seem to know when the other needs help.

Do you like paranormal romance? Do you enjoy reading about witches, demons, vampires and magic? Do you think something like Annie and Cham's story might possibly be real in our time? Is this just an idea from the author?

Honestly, I do not know if it is possible, something like the book could be read. However, I am open to the suggestion. Sheryl has created a book that will take the reader from modern times back to the middle ages. Readers will cheer Annie along as she battles demon after demon, weep when her and Cham become estranged. Imagine themselves as Annie while conjuring up spells. Reading this book will show you the good and bad of magic, the demons that might face. Imagine that you could change the color of a rock from gray to red. Help to heal your partner because he is hurt teleporting from one spot to another on a whim.

Yes, all of the above and more happen in the book. Sound interesting. Then go and get yourself a copy. It is

only 99 cents this week. Join me in the journey of reading the phenomenal series that Sheryl is going to take us all on. Are you ready for the fight, the thrill, and the joy of seeing good overcome evil? If so, then start reading, you will be glad you did. The strong characters, the thrill of the plot, will instantly captivate you and the unique way Sheryl has with words.

Thanks for another great read Sheryl.

The Bunnies and I give this book 4 carrots.

I was gifted this book when taking part in a VBT. I received no compensation for reading/reviewing this book. The above opinion is my own and not a paid review. To form your own opinion please support the author and purchase a copy.

Sarah (Head Stuck In A Book) says

After finishing *The Day Of First Sun* I was eager to get to this book and continue on with Annie and Cham's adventures.

Steines' writing has improved with this second book in the series, and it was definitely more adventurous and nail-biting than the first.

Annie and Cham are lifelong friends whom finally admitted their feelings to each other in the previous book, have now been partnered up with other people, but Annie and Cham aren't your everyday ordinary people, they are wizards working for the Wizard Council, they are like the supernatural police, taking care of the cases that the human police could never handle.

Cham is causing trouble between Annie and her new partner Spencer, always showing up to help Annie with their cases which starts making her new partnership fraught with tension, it's on one such case that Annie comes across a demon, the likes of which she's never seen before, add that to the viking that Cham and his partner Gibbs are pursuing and they discover that the demon and the viking are both out of time, the viking was sent to our time for just one purpose and that was to find Annie and take her back to the tenth century. Unbeknown to Annie she is part of a prophecy that will change her life forever, she and Spencer are hurtled back through time where Annie will discover her purpose, and change history forever.

I loved the story that took part in the tenth century, the era was described so well you almost felt like you were actually there.

And being out of time gave Annie and Spencer time to work on their partnership and depend on just one another without any interference, and of course the relationship between Annie and Cham, I think that they are the cutest couple and I hope we have more books released in this series to continue on their adventures together.

I give this 4/5.

Christie Palmer says

This is the second book in a series *Annie Loves Cam* by: Sheryl Steines and is a YA book. Very well written with interesting characters, world-building and story-line.

I enjoyed this book much more than the first one. The characters are evolved from the first book and that gives you some more buy in to the characters.

From the first sentence it is an action packed story that makes you want to turn the page. Annie is a character that you can relate too. You can't help but love Cam for the mere fact that he loves Annie so much his feelings nearly jump off the page and touch your heart.

Annie is a Wizard Guard and is asked to save the world. However, saving the world isn't as easy as you would think. Especially when she is stripped from her comfort zone. And the only one she has to count on is her new partner Spencer. Trust issues ensue, but when her life is threatened she is forced to lean on her new partner.

Cam will move heaven and earth for the woman he loves and goes to extremes that will touch the heart of any reader.

Although I really liked this book, there were points in it when I wanted to slap Cam, and shake Annie. But that could be a good thing in that I felt a close connection with the characters.

My only problem was the epilogue, I had no idea what it was about... after such a good read I was left scratching my head. But DO NOT let that stop you. If you are a YA fan this is a great read.

M. Fenn says

I received an ebook copy of Sheryl Steines' new book, *She Wulf*, in exchange for my honest review as part of this week's Novel Publicity whirlwind blog tour. At first blush it looks like the story would be right up my alley. Strong female lead, demons, time-traveling vikings: I'm there.

Steines' second book in her young adult fantasy *Annie Loves Cham* series follows the adventures of wizards Annie Pearce and Cham Chamsky as Annie is kidnapped back into the 11th century to fulfill a prophecy and battle a race of regenerating demons bent on destroying a coven of witches and a community of Vikings living around what will become the city of York in northern England. Cham insists on finding a way to follow her back in time to help her/rescue her.

Like I said, the basic idea of this story is something that appeals to me. Time travel, when done well, is always fun, and the book containing Annie's prophecy that the Wizard Guards (sort of a Hogwarts FBI) discover is kind of neat. It changes as things in the past change—a common trope—and the characters pass notes between the two time periods as they figure out how to proceed.

I also like one of the ancillary characters. Bega, one of the 11th century "Wiccans," is a young girl assigned to watch over Annie as the coven prepares her for battle. She has her own motives and there's a hint that she (or her mother) travel through time to the book's present day at some point. I would have liked to learn more about her (them).

I would also have liked to have learned more about the Wizard Guards. My guess is that Steines did more set-up around them in the first book of the series, *The Day of First Sun*, but I haven't read that one. These wizards feel like the old-school cops that you might find in the hard-boiled stories of Hammett and Chandler:

their ethics are suspect as they do whatever they need to do to help Annie. The wizard Gibbs, for instance, breaks into another wizard's store and threatens to burn the place down to get the magical books he requires. This seems a tad overdone on first blush. The wizards also have no problem torturing and generally mistreating the demons they keep in their basement prison. Steines portrays all demons as evil animals which strikes me as a tad shallow, but perhaps that's my Whedon love coming through.

Not that I would compare Steines' writing to Hammett's and Chandler's in a positive way (nor Whedon's). Unfortunately, there are a lot of things about *She Wulf* that really don't work for me. The awkwardly constructed and overly repetitious prose distracted me a lot. Fight scenes, in particular, I found confusing and had to reread several times to figure out exactly who was doing what to whom. And where I wasn't confused, I was bored. So often, it felt like I was playing D&D with people yelling one spell after another at the DM in the hopes that something would stick. I sympathize with this problem: fight scenes can be difficult to write. They take practice, and it's really easy to get them wrong or just not be as exciting as the writer was hoping for.

I was also frustrated by Steines' misuse of words. For example, she declares a sword to be immune to magic but then a stronger spell easily subdues the object. That's not how immunity works, last time I read up on the topic.

Words mean things. To spend all of chapter 7, like Steines does, having her Viking "reigning" in the "reigns" of his horse-drawn cart only leads to a lot of unintended laughter, at least in my house. And don't get me started on the "incineration" of Bega's feet in chapter 23. [Note: I confirmed that I received a final copy of the book, not an ARC. I would have done my best to ignore these mistakes in the latter case.]

The book also has a problem with its use of history. Now, I love alternate histories and authors who successfully fiddle with classic tales. Steines says in her acknowledgements and on her website that she was influenced to write this novel by a documentary on Beowulf that she watched.

Awesome! But then why move the tale to England? I found this puzzling, especially when she describes the Vikings actually moving to England. Not invading, but moving.

To quote: History told him that the Vikings had left Denmark at one point and moved to England...

I picture a bunch of Danish folk packing up their U-Hauls, finding a nice neighborhood in North Yorkshire, and settling down. That isn't quite how it worked in the history books I've read. Peaceful relocation isn't what the Vikings were known for. If Steines really meant to change history in that way, I would have liked to have seen a little more explanation and description of what she was going for instead of an offhand remark in a questionable history book.

Finally, on the subject of history, Wiccans. Steines labels the 11th century witches in *She Wulf* as Wiccans. Since Wicca didn't actually exist until the early 20th century, I wish Steines had come up with another name for her ancient coven. Going with Wicca was just lazy, in my opinion.

In conclusion, *She Wulf* is not a book I would recommend. Its prose knocked me out of the story too often, and I found the main characters fairly tedious and ordinary (although she might have something with Bega/Githa). Of course, your mileage may vary. If you're not as picky a reader as I am (although, really, I enjoy Michael Crichton books—his stuff isn't exactly Shakespeare) and you have a thing for fantasy romances, you might like it.
