



# The Howling Heart

*April Bostic*

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## **The Howling Heart** April Bostic

Paige Donovan is an ambitious college graduate who aspires to reach the top of the corporate ladder. She's climbing fast when given the promotion of a lifetime at a prestigious fashion magazine in New York City. Her bright future comes to an unexpected halt after news of her father's death. She inherits his old cabin in the Colorado Rockies, and just when she thinks her luck couldn't get any worse, she has a car accident in the mountains and awakens in the small, remote community of Black River.

Soon, she's engulfed in the mystical world of Varulv---wolves descended from 13th century Scandinavia and blessed by Norse gods with the ability to appear human. Paige is desperate to return home, but never expects to fall for her rescuer, Riley Gray, a charming young werewolf from England who offers her an alternate future with his pack.

Now, she must choose between the career she's always wanted and the love she's always dreamed.

## **The Howling Heart Details**

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Author : April Bostic

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# From Reader Review The Howling Heart for online ebook

**Nadene (Totally Addicted to Reading) says**

I received this book to review through Beck Valley Books Book Tours, all the opinions above are 100% my own.

I struggled with my decision on how to rate this book. After much reflection, I finally decided to give it a four-star rating. You may be wondering what could have led to this struggle. The story was good, but there were aspects that had me rethinking my decision to read it. There was a hint of the possibility of sexual deviation. Thankfully, it was just a hint because that would have been too much for me to handle.

With that being said, my reasons for awarding a four-star rating was due to the following:

## 1. A Unique and interesting storyline:

The Howling Heart is not your typical werewolf romance. It delved into a world where fantasy met reality and mythology. I found the concept surrounding the origin of werewolves fascinating and refreshing. They were not considered to be werewolves, but wolves that appear human. They are larger than your typical werewolf and this was due to centuries of inbreeding.

## 2. Pacing:

The story is well paced. It flowed smoothly from start to finish. There were a few scenes that had me on the edge of my seat. There was never a dull moment in this book.

## 3. Well portrayed characters:

Howling Heart tells the story of Paige Donovan and Riley Gray. Paige works with a prestigious fashion magazine. She is in a solid relationship or so she believed until she caught her boyfriend cheating. When she thought things could not get any worse, she received news of her father's death. In a bid to handle her grief, she returned to the cabin she had inherited from her father. This cabin and the surrounding areas held a lot of memories for Paige. One memory that stood out most in her mind was the day she made friends with a white wolf pup. Little did she know that returning to the Black River area would change her life in ways she could never imagine. Paige is a complex character. She grew up under unhappy circumstances, however, she did not allow it to define her as an adult. She is strong and vulnerable at the same time. The fact that she is willing to give up the life of comfort that she is accustomed to for love demonstrates her brave and unselfish nature. However, I must confess that there were times when I wanted to knock some sense into her. It baffled me how someone who claims to be smart could behave foolishly at times. Riley's character was somewhat confusing. He is sexy and strong-willed. It's his strong-willed nature that led to him constantly butting heads with his father. He is a charmer, a take charge person and protective of those he cared about. However, he has a dark side. Now, what confused me was his actions when thought he was going to lose Paige. He cried, begged and whined. These are not traits one would expect to find in a male such as Riley.

## 4. The Ending

The ending was not what I was expecting. It took me by surprise, but I believe it was a beautiful ending. The author is new to me as such I had no idea what I was getting into. Now, that I am at the end, I can honestly say that I enjoyed the way she made the story come alive.

There is not much more I can say for fear of giving away the story. Nevertheless, I can say this much. I am

glad I read this book. If you love shifter romance and want a refreshing take on the world of shifters, then I recommend that you get a copy.

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### **Tishia (Paperback Opinion) says**

The Howling Heart by April Bostic is an adult paranormal romance. It follows Paige Donovan – a young woman who just finds out that she inherited a cabin in Colorado after her dad dies. She takes bereavement leave from her exciting job at a fashion magazine in New York to check on the condition of the cabin.

During her stay in Colorado, Paige has a car accident and is rescued by a hunky guy named Riley. He and his family take care of her until she recovers. Paige discovers that Riley, and everyone else in the small town, is a Varulv. They are wolves that take on human form. This is a little different from other books about wolves, because these characters are more wolf than human (rather than the other way around).

The character of Riley seemed all over the place to me. He's supposed to be strong and sexy. He is a murderer. He is sweet. He is obsessive. He is a cry-baby. Riley doesn't even REALLY know Paige, but when she decides she needs to leave and go back to New York, he cries. He has this obsession with her that is a little creepy. It was definitely insta-love on his part. Yeah, he saw her when she was a little girl visiting the cabin with her family, big deal. They didn't get to know each other. Then he pines for her for years until she returns.

I seriously almost didn't finish this book. When talk of bestiality came up, I was almost ready to put down my kindle. It didn't happen. BUT... she was agreeable to it – eww... And there was a lot of talk about it.

I know wolf packs are close, but Riley and his twin sister share a bedroom in a trailer with their dad and step-mom. They are adults – you would think they wouldn't still be living with their parents (let alone share a bedroom). Also, obviously they aren't wearing clothes when they shift to their human form from their wolf form – but I was a little weirded out that they weren't bothered by letting their boobs or junk hang out for the world to see.

There are a lot of good reviews for this book. Maybe I'm just not open-minded enough. I didn't particularly like this book, but the writing wasn't bad. Also, there were some interesting plot twists so I will give it 2 stars instead of just one.

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### **Amber says**

Im not really sure where to start on my review for The Howling Heart, to be honest Im still not really sure what I think of it. The book has lots of potential. I love reading paranormal as its one of my favorite genres to read. April Bostic is a great writer, that can be seen with in the story. I loved the story line and characters, I wanted more information at certain parts of the story, more about some of the characters and scenes that were presented to us. I dont know if there will be a sequel to this book but if so maybe that would give us more insight to some of the characters that were introduced. My favorite character had to be Quinn maybe it

was because she was so mysterious and I wanted to know more about her. I think with a content editor this book could really go places and be phenomenal. If you like shapeshifting wolves and insta love this is the book for you.

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### **Shera (Book Whispers) says**

Even with the male lead crying and emotionally blackmailing the lead into staying with him I might have been OK. Because as the book progresses Riley, the male lead, does prove himself. The hopeless romantic in me really starts to believe his case of love at first sight. Despite some of the minor sexism and the . . . rushed pacing. Where each event feels like:

And then. And then. And then. And then. And more and then!

Paige and Riley have chemistry. It's hot! The world of the Varuvl—also known as werewolves—and the Norse mythology is a real treat, which I would have loved even further explored. Even though the book and plot felt as standard as it comes to the Paranormal Romance genre. I could have loved it. Truly. Despite all of my issues with crybaby Riley. God he's pathetic. Alpha material. No. Beta. Heck yeah. Even though I thought Paige and Riley could have been better as a role reversal. Riley makes a great cry baby fragile girl, but I kind of respect Bostic for making such a male lead.

This writing is underdeveloped.

The writing tells instead of shows. Even with barren writing like the Anita Blake series, you can feel the world being painted in your mind. Heck, even P.C. and Kristin Cast House of Night books have a way with words. (And we all know how childish I find the dialogue and sometimes the characters' thoughts.) At times the sentences in Howling Heart are choppy. Even scenes. Other times I'm left going, “Wait, what? How did that make it past editing?” It felt like a ton of writing clichés and “what would an author paste in hear” mash up.

Bostic hasn't found her writing rhythm or flow yet. Nor, her own personal writing style. When she does . . . I'm pretty sure her books are going to rock! There are a lot of good things present here. Just not enough. There are two things that kill books for me. Lack of decent writing. Check. Lack of character depth and realism. Bostic does a pretty good job of creating the characters here, and the two love interests definitely have chemistry. The writing just wasn't advanced enough to support it.

**Sexual Content:** Steamy! Standard PNR scenes.

**1/5- I couldn't finish it or wish I hadn't**

*Originally reviewed at Book Whispers.*

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### **JadeShea says**

The Howling Heart begins when Paige gets a call about something bad happening to her father. Now, she must go back to the cabin she left so many years ago. But strange things are happening to her, and she can't seem to understand what's going on with everyone especially when the talk of wolves comes up.

This book was not for me. I felt like the story didn't make a whole lot of sense, and it was very hard to connect with the characters. I was annoyed with the way the heroine acted for part of it. I felt she should have been a lot more understanding, and I hated that she kept feeling like she had to leave. It really rubbed me the wrong way.

Over all I did not like this one.

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### \*kawehi.reviews says

**The good:** A decent read. Cute story line and characters, okay pacing, and refreshing tale of wolves descended from the Varulv clan.

**The bad:** Nothing constructive to embellish on **BUT** I was hoping for more plot after Paige had made her decision whether to bond with Riley or not. I mean, there is, but I wanted more.

*Also*, I was a tad interested and shocked at the mention of the possibility of bestiality. I don't know how such a thing would have even been possible to portray since physically a werewolf male and a human? How is that even possible?

### My thoughts:

While this book didn't "wow" me, I liked it very much. It's actually one of my more favorite books from April Bostic aside from "A Rose to the Fallen."

"The Howling Heart" tells the story of Paige and Riley. Paige unbeknownst met Riley when they were children but moved away. Years later, she is climbing the ladder for a top magazine but it all comes to a halt when her father passes away.

*(Paige Description: Wavy auburn hair, blue eyes.)*

Paige then returns to a cabin where she inherited from her dad only to meet up with Riley once again.

### ***Enter Riley.***

*(Riley Description: Sandy blonde hair, suntanned, and has a mole on the upper left corner of his mouth.)*

Riley had never forgotten Paige ever since their brief meeting as children. As the years gone by, he yearns for her to return to make and claim her as his mate.

How will Paige take Riley's secret? Will she embrace it/him or go back to her life in New York and leave everything behind?

### My verdict:

An interesting take on werewolves!! I recommend if you're looking for a sweet romantic tale of first love within the paranormal world.

I like these kinds of reads so it naturally appealed to me. Plus too, werewolves are known to be possessive characters and I love those traits in male heroines so my interest was definitely satisfied with the characterization of Riley.

A *lovely, lovely* read!! I hope to read more from Ms. Bostic!

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### **Stephanie- The Boyfriend Bookmark says**

This book was anything but what I was expecting. Yes, I knew it was a paranormal romance that involved werewolves, but I just wasn't expecting this. It was such a great love story that started with young children. But one of them happened to be part wolf.

Paige is on track to have the career of her dreams in New York. But with the sudden loss of her father, she is left dealing with the emotions and issues that arise from a death in the family. But more than that, when it's time to read his will, Paige discovers that she is now the owner of a cabin in the Rocky Mountains. But what is special about this cabin is that Paige loved it 13 years before when she was last there. Her mother and she thought her dad had sold it years before, so it was quite a shock to them both to find out that Paige had inherited it.

Paige makes her journey out to Colorado to check out the cabin and see what she can do with it. But what she discovers is a hot as hell guy... and a scary wolf. When the sheriff in town denies any wolves being in the area, Paige is determined to find the truth. What she finds is so much more than she expects.

What she finds is love. But with all great loves, it comes with a price. First, Paige's home is in New York, so far away from the secluded town she is now in. Second, Paige is human... the man she is most attracted to is kind of the same.

There is a lot of twists and turns with this book that you just don't see coming and I have to admit I almost put it down when talk of bestiality came up, however, I pushed through it (and no there is none of it in the book) and found the story between Riley and Paige to be beautiful. Paige learns so much about herself and what she truly wants from life and what will make her happy. Riley knows that Paige is the one for him, he just has to go about making her his in a slightly unorthodox way.

This story did capture me and the love between Paige and Riley was beautiful. I really enjoyed the story and have discovered that adding a little paranormal to my world of romance is good.

\*I received a complimentary copy of The Howling Heart in exchange for an honest review\*\*

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### **Christine says**

The story began from page one where Paige goes to her family's cabin when she is 10 years. While out lost

in the forest, she meets a little white wolf pup who she friends. After that first meeting with the pup, her family goes back to New York and they never return to the cabin. After 13 years later, Paige cannot get that white pup out of her mind. Then something happens which forces Paige to return to the cabin only to run into a man named, Riley.

Did I feel connected to the characters? I liked all the characters in this story, even Riley's dad. He was stern about the pack laws because they were the laws to protect his pack which was his family. Regarding Paige being hesitant to join the pack, I could understand why. Paige was finally in a place in her life that she thought she always wanted to be. There were hard decisions for her to make between her life in New York and her life with the pack. Riley was faithful and loving to Paige. I was a little leery of Riley's insta-love for Paige in the beginning.

Pace of the story: The pace was good. However, it took me a while to get used to the writing style. The writing was a little too verbose. I think the author could have cut out some of the information, description in the story.

Positives: I love these stories where the girl meets a little wolf pup when she is little only to never see him again until she is much older.

Negatives: I do not condone the way the heroine handled one situation with Trevor.

Many times I felt like the story was told to me instead of experiencing it. I wanted to experience the couple's connection since I love these types of paranormal stories where the characters met when they were both young only to reunite when they are older. The story was there, I just felt like at time, it was not executed.

Bottom line: I really enjoy reading these types of paranormal stories. I wanted to keep reading whenever I got a chance to find out what was going to happen.

Book Format Read: A copy was provided in change for an honest review.

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## **Kimber Wheaton says**

I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review

*The Howling Heart* opens with a frequent memory that plagues main character Paige, an event that occurred thirteen years ago at the family cabin in the woods. Soon after she learns her father has died and she is now the owner of said cabin. She feels a strong pull to return, one that she can't rationalize or ignore.

Paige is emotionally fragile when she arrives in the Colorado small town. She just lost her father and also caught her boyfriend in the act of cheating. When she sees Riley in the general store, it's lust at first sight. Paige is a strange woman. One moment she seems so put together and practical. The next she's jumping into a strange situation with both feet. I almost died laughing when she finally began asking the town doctor life altering questions toward the end. I guess better late than never...

Riley fell in love with Paige the moment they met in the forest when he was a pup and she was a girl. When she arrives at the cabin, he wastes no time professing his undying love. He's another strange one. At times he's a dominant alpha-male type, at others a complete pushover. The love Riley has for a woman he doesn't know is sweet in that 'love at first sight' or 'instant soul-mate' sort of way. It was funny how they'd proclaim



love for each other, and then Paige would lament how little she knows about him.

By the end of the story, it's obvious that Paige truly does love Riley—all of him body, heart, and soul. It's really rather sweet (in a somewhat creepy kind of way) that she feels this way. The entire time I was reading I kept wondering how a relationship could possibly work when they come from two very different worlds. But sometimes love really can conquer all, so why fight it.

I enjoyed the ending quite a bit. It gave the story closure as well as providing a decent laugh. *The Howling Heart* is for ages 18+ due to mature content. If you like paranormal stories featuring shapeshifters, add this one to your TBR list.

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## **Elaine says**

This is a different paranormal shifter story with Norse mythology added for good measure! I really liked the explanation for the existence of wolf shifters and the enthralling plot into which it is woven. It is a unique take on this genre, with many new to me aspects which make this such an enjoyable story to get lost in (and my family can confirm that I really did get lost in it, I really needed 'Do Not Disturb' signs around me whilst reading it!)

There are many well portrayed characters in the story, from Paige and Riley, to his family and step family and her Mum and boss. I couldn't quite make my mind up about Riley, he's a total mix of strong beta male threatening to be alpha but love makes him into more of a howling, weak, wretch at times. Most of the story is set in a small, remote village in the Colorado Rockies, with a tight knit community complete with its own set of rules and regulations. Although Paige and Riley met when she was only ten years old he's been fixated on her being his mate ever since. I liked the reveal about how he got her to return to visit and the role of the gods in their reunion. There are plenty of anxious moments as the story develops, including a fight to the death. To find out between whom and why, you'll just have to read it yourself!

A great addition to shifter romance writing, I suspect this author's work will just keep on improving!

Many thanks to IndieSage PR for providing me with an ecopy of this novel to read in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says**

First I have to say that I love reading books about werewolves but this was a different take on wolves and the origin in which they came from. I also love reading about Norse Gods because the Scandinavian history is so strong and so diverse that I found myself delving in deep with this book and I could not have been happier.

Paige has just graduated from college and is determined to be at the top of her career and no matter what happens she will work her butt off to get there. So as she is working and enjoying her new life she has a set back when she gets news that her father has died. Paige is sad and leaves right away to go to her fathers cabin and bury him. On her way there to the cabin she gets into a accident and when she wakes up she realizes she is somewhere else. She also notices the handsome guy staring at her. When she asks him what

happened her tells her he rescued her from the accident.

Once Paige gets her mind focused she asks the stranger his name and he says it is Riley. Riley feels something for Paige but he comes from a different world and time so he is nervous but once he tells Paige everything she will have to decide whether or not to stay with him or leave and go back to her job. Riley wants Paige but will it be too much for Paige to give up the career she has worked so hard to get?

This is one hell of a paranormal read and I am so glad I read it because it is one of my top 2013 books everyone MUST READ!

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### **Dianne says**

The cabin in Black River, Colorado was supposed to be something fun for young Paige, but her parents' constant fighting scared her so much, she decided running away had to be better. That's when she found a cute little white puppy in the woods, and a few minutes of happiness and joy until she was surrounded by a pack of snarling wolves, protecting their little packmate. Her family never went back to that cabin, so when Paige's father dies and leaves it to her years later, she returns to Black River to re-visit the memories and deal with what to do with the cabin, taking a leave from her coveted high-fashion magazine job in the New York. Alone in the cabin, Paige receives a "visit" from a large white wolf, but the sheriff doesn't seem to be as concerned as he should be. Deciding that it's better to keep the cabin in her past, she leaves town and is in an accident and is rescued by an Adonis of a blonde guy who is determined to keep her around, but again, she finds that her space is invaded by something that sheds white hairs. Again, no one seems concerned. What is going on in this remote little town? Why is this hot guy so determined to keep her around? And why is he completely naked so often? And finally, what do Norse Gods have to do with wolves? What are Varulv?

**The Howling Heart** by April Bostic is part mystery, part romance, all paranormal and shows a lot of naked bits, by a lot of naked shifters. I like a good paranormal romance, love the tension, the danger, the confusion by the human until the light finally goes on and acceptance and more are achieved. I just couldn't fully believe or connect with the two main characters as much as I wanted. I did find supporting characters that I wanted to know more about, and completely enjoyed, though! Paige was an educated adult working in the high-end fashion industry in New York, yet her character seemed too timid and too embarrassingly fascinated by all of the casual nudity, while her feminine feathers were completely ruffled by the thought of being subservient to a male for anything. Riley, our hotter than blazes shifter was the Alpha's son and had decided as a pup that Paige was to be his mate. He never forgot her and went way overboard when she returned to Black River. As a character, he was not consistent and seemed rather naïve to the human world, and dare I say, often suffered from "dumb blonde" syndrome a little too much for my liking. To his credit, he did show some hot moves on the battlefield and in the bedroom, but I still couldn't see him with Paige and there were times I questioned his actions.

This is fantasy, we can be taken from pure and innocent to melting hot erotica in a matter of a few pages and that is where April Bostic took us, so I can't say I wouldn't let Riley shed on my bed!

I wish to thank April Bostic for providing me a review copy of **The Howling Heart** in exchange for my honest review.

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Genre: ADULT Paranormal Romance  
My Rating: 3 Stars  
Available from: Amazon / Barnes & Noble

*For more reviews check out Tome Tender's Book Blog or find us on Facebook.*

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## **Majanka says**

Book Review originally published here: <http://www.iheartreading.net/book-tou...>

I find werewolf stories usually to be less interesting as vampires / witches, mostly because they tend to have pretty basic core, and little originality. The Howling Heart proved me very, very wrong. The author has been inspired by Norse culture and ancient folklore to craft a rather impressive werewolf legend that definitely ranks high on the originality ladder.

Paige, our main character, had it all. Climbing the corporate ladder three steps at a time, so to speak, she thought life couldn't get any better. It ended up getting a lot worse. Her Dad passed away, and in an attempt to deal with her grief, she travels to the cabin he left for her in his will, a remote cabin far away from civilization, which her family visited sometimes when she was younger.

The setting is a small, remote village. I love those kind of villages, old and traditional, tucked away from the rest of the world, where everyone knows everyone. The setting was described well, and I immediately felt like I could picture the scenes.

Added in is, of course, an alpha male, Riley Gray. I usually tend to dislike the alpha male trope because for some reason, these alphas always act like they're superior to everyone. Riley doesn't really act that way though. He's protective, he likes to take charge, and he's very good at charming people, but he lacks most of the personality traits I tend to dislike about alphas.

This book is a gritty read, and you know, wolves will be wolves, so the action in the bedroom (and other places) is always a bit on the rough side. I'd definitely recommend keeping this book away from minors.

I enjoyed the plot, characters, setting, and the writing as well. A solid read.

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## **Carrie (Book Fairy) Fort says**

Favorite Lines "You're proof not all humans are bad, so it wouldn't make sense to hate all of you."

"Please...I...beg you. Give me...a chance...to love you."

**“I would die...before...I let anyone...have you.”**

**“I want you to listen to me. I’m glad you came. I’ve loved every day we spent together...from the first day we met to this moment, now. I’m happiest when I’m with you. I don’t want you to have any regrets, because I don’t.”**

What a fabulous Varulv love story! This is a love we all hope to have and wish to experience!

Paige is a city girl who went to this fabulous cabin when she was younger and played with a wolf pup, now that she's older she's been dreaming about the pup. When her father dies and leaves her that cabin she goes to check it out. What she didn't expect was to see that wolf again. Then all hell breaks loose when she gets in accident.

Riley can't believe she is back! Paige is here. He has thought of nothing but her for all his life. Can he win her over when she finds out he is Varulv!?

I enjoyed this book, it was a easy read that had me shedding a few tears. I am not sure how I feel about ending though, I would like to see a next book to see what happens with that pack.

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review (RBTL)

## **FOUR HOWLING FAIRIES**

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### **Farrah says**

I'm not sure what to say about this book. It was rather unusual. But, in a way that kind of worked. So, part of me is slightly bewildered, but the rest of me really enjoyed this book. And that's how I feel about every part of it. Strange, yet oddly amazing. The Howling Heart was a lovely paranormal romance. I really liked this book.

Paige was a nice heroine. She's just been offered the promotion of a lifetime, when her father's death takes her away and she ends up in Black River. And, once there, she meets the love of her life and is forced to choose if she wants her career or her chance at true love. Like this book as a whole, I kind of don't know what to say about her. On one hand, I questioned her decisions a lot. On the other, I still really liked her character. She was thrown into a difficult situation and she handled it as best she could. And, when it came down to it, she showed herself to be a selfless heroine. In the end, I really liked her.

Riley was so sweet. He's utterly devoted to Paige and had been since they met as children. Almost to the point of obsession. But, again, he still made it work. I thought he was a sweetheart and I really liked him.

The romance was intense, both emotionally and physically. Emotionally because Riley had loved Paige so long and that kind of intense devotion draws out intense devotion. Physically because, even while Riley and Paige couldn't fully be together until they were mated due to pack law, the chemistry was always burning and, when they finally did get together, it was downright explosive. Yet, it was almost insta-love, but in a way that still allowed me to like the romance. I thought they were a lovely couple.

I liked how the werewolf mythology was done, with the Norse gods and all that. In this variation, the Varulv are wolves with the ability to shapeshift into humans. Rather than being humans who turn into wolves, these creatures are essentially wolves. It was kind of odd, but it was so interesting that I really liked it.

Are you noticing a pattern here?

The plot was nice. There wasn't much tension from conflict because, as conflict arose, it were dealt with swiftly. So, while I wasn't riveted, I was still drawn to the story. There were twists along the way that I never saw coming, especially with how it ended. Most of the book, I thought it would turn out one way, and it ended up turning out another. And I really liked how the story concluded.

As I said before, this book is odd, but in a way that really works. If you can tell with what I've said, that applied to everything in the book. It was different, but I still really liked it. The Howling Heart was a lovely paranormal romance that I really enjoyed. Loves of the genre, you definitely need to give this book a try.

\*I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review

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