



Diary of the Wolf (Diary of the Wolf, #1)

Frank E. Whelan

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Ciaran Connolly's online dating profile became somewhat inaccurate when he was transformed into a werewolf. One bite changed his path from dull mediocrity to a blur of power, women and fights to the death. Now women want his body and hunters want his hide but all Ciaran wants is to pass his exams before the full moon.

Book one in the "Diary of the Wolf" series.

Diary of the Wolf (Diary of the Wolf, #1) Details

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Author : Frank E. Whelan

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From Reader Review Diary of the Wolf (Diary of the Wolf, #1) for online ebook

susan murray says

Won from goodreads

About ciaran went out for a walk and nearly gets killed by a werewolf but luckily survives. His body starts changing and he has a visitor who explains what is happening he is now a werewolf.

This book is set in Ireland and at first didn't get really into it but as I keep on reading found it more and more interesting.

Sylvia says

I received this book for free through Goodreads Giveaways

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

First things first, a little run down of the plot.

It starts off with the main character, Ciaran Connolly, out for a night on the town. Where he promptly stalks, and murders a man for insulting the lovely Sabine, a woman that he just met. This first impression did not serve to endear Ciaran to me, though my feelings toward him did improve by the end of the book.

He then reminisces on the events leading up to, and following his lycanthropic infection. Really, anyone who goes on a hike in the mountains, alone, on a moonlit night, deserves to be attacked by a werewolf. After living through the change, he meets his new mentor Kraven, who gives him the run down on the gift he's been given, and lays down the rules of werewolf life.

Ciaran then goes on with his regular, student lifestyle, enjoying lycanthropy and all that it brings. But a quiet, peaceful life is rarely on the cards for the protagonist in any novel, let alone an urban fantasy novel. So, wackiness ensues. Witches and werewolf hunters join the mix. Sabine makes a reappearance. And Kraven goes off the deep end. And that is all I'm going to say on the plot. I'm here to express my personal feelings towards the story, not re-write it in my own words.

I thoroughly enjoyed Diary of the Wolf. I did find it a little hard to get into at first. I found myself putting it down after a paragraph or two, then picking it up hours later. Ciaran's nonchalance towards cold blooded murder didn't help matters much. But, once I was finally pulled into the story, I ripped through it in an afternoon (whilst spending time with my mother, who was in town for a visit).

I read a lot of urban fantasy novels. Sometimes, I even prefer them to straight up fantasy. It is easier to imagine yourself in the story when it is written in a real-world setting. That way, I can pretend that maybe, just maybe, one day I could become a werewolf too.

Despite being well read in the genre, I found Diary of the Wolf to be quite different from most of the other books I've read. This could be due to the setting. Ireland, a beautiful land that could make even the most sceptical person believe in magic and fairies. Most of the books I tend to read are set in the US, though Canadian, Australian, and occasionally English settings aren't uncommon. Or it could be due to the distinctly male voice of the protagonist. After reading Diary of the Wolf, it occurred to me that most of the books I

read happen to be written by female authors, usually about female characters. So, Whelan's take on the genre was a refreshing change.

Whatever the cause, it worked.

What I liked most about the book was the descriptiveness of the writing. From the physical sensations and changes associated with lycanthropy, to the people and places, Whelan's descriptions were fantastic. I particularly enjoyed the transformation from human to werewolf at the start of the book. It was intriguing, distinctive, and the perfect mix of simple and illustrative.

For example, on page 24,

"Under the moonlight, the veins on my right arm pulsed a deep dark black that spread out further to my fingertips. My whole arm looked like there was hot tar flowing under the surface. The pain became curious, unique and indescribable. As the sensation built to a sprinkling crescendo, the veins started to change colour, spreading down my arm as if diluting."

Reading this, I could almost feel the pain, the heat in my arm. I always enjoy werewolf books that portray the somatic experience of the change. A simple "ouch, that hurts" isn't usually enough for me. I want the author to paint me a painful, and even grotesque picture of how the character feels in that moment. Which is something I thought Whelan excelled at in this novel.

I enjoyed the storyline as well. To me, there was a touch of sameness to it, though that is to be expected for someone who has been reading exclusively within this genre, and the related genres for years. Although I haven't purchased it yet, I am looking forward to see how Whelan will continue the storyline in book two.

As for the negatives, I did think the dialogue needed a little bit of work. It seemed a bit forced at times. It was in no way bad, it just needed a bit of fine tuning. Though, who knows. That could just be how they speak in Ireland. I was only there for a few weeks, five years ago, I don't remember every conversation I had.

There was also very little in the way of character development. Though that is understandable in such a short book (I like big books, and I cannot lie). I am hoping that there will be more of this in the rest of the series.

Overall, I am extremely glad that I won this book. And not just because I like free things, or because getting a parcel with an Irish stamp made me feel sentimental about my time travelling around the country. But because as a whole, I considered Diary of the Wolf to be a great read. It wasn't one of my favourites, that list is already remarkably full, but I would certainly read it again. And I am looking forward to the continuation of the series.

I encourage other lovers of Ireland, werewolves, and urban fantasy novels to give Diary of the Wolf a try.

Denise Connolly Connolly says

Loved this book. When started it I was a little bit judgmental, what could this story set in Ireland tell me any different from other werewolf books? I was very pleasantly surprised!! Loved the different slant the writer put on being bitten, changing and getting used to his new life. Loved everything about this book and didn't hurt to have bits and pieces about life in Ireland, the sayings, the craic and the way we Irish talk and go on.

Living away from Ireland at the moment, it was so nice to hear the familiar from back home. Went and got out the next book to this "A Tale of Hunters" and loved that too! Go on Frank, ya boy ya, and give us more! Also the surname being the same as mine didn't hurt at all! LOL!

Tim Gray says

A goodreads win I ate up fast like a wolf with a little pig. It's a fairly slim volume that is an easy and enjoyable read. Great fun, and glad to see there is more to come.

Megan says

My book blog: <http://publishedmoments.co.uk>

From the first few pages of this book, I was instantly absorbed in to the diary of the wolf. Whelan has done an incredible job with describing the transformation of human to wolf, it was descriptive and thorough. Usually paranormal and supernatural books don't really hold my attention all that well. It seems that Whelan has managed to keep me focused and it was nice to read something that had a little something to offer on every single page of the book, Whelan kept the Diary of the Wolf on a very steady pace and didn't allow me to get bored at any point.

I did find that while the concept of the book was brilliant, it did lack a little of a 'solid' storyline. Yes, there's the love story and the wolf hunt but it just felt a little 'samey' for me. I also felt like one of the characters could have been built upon massively. The only reason why it's a four star review!

Christine Polli says

I received this book as a First Reads Giveaway Winner Thank you to the author for your sweet note and sweet treats!!

The story looked interesting. I enjoy a good werewolf story and like seeing how different authors tell the story. This one seemed a bit lacking. This is meant to be the first book in a series, so I wonder if some of the lack of details and character depth is due to learning more later.

The book starts with a good grab but then fades a bit. Descriptions of some scenes are well written with vivid adjectives. However, the story is very simplistic. The main character gets bitten by a werewolf, and outside some pain during healing and later transitions, he seems good with it. There is no depth to how that might impact one's life, and that is part of the story line. Seems to me this would be a big life changer with plenty to say about it. A chapter would start with an intriguing event then end with everything tied up in a neat little bow. I wanted to like the characters but there wasn't much to there development to really invest in them.

The book was easy to read. Will I read the next one? Maybe.

Dennis bishop says

Great read

Looking forward to many more books like this one! The right dose of paranormal with just a smidge of a love interest.

Tim Gray says

Lots of fun - and I suspect this series will be worth following.

Sinead says

This was a refreshing read in many ways for me. I have read fantasy/paranormal books to death because it is my favourite genre and it isn't very often I find something new to enjoy. For me, because this well written book was based in a place I know well I could really visualise the story on a whole other level. It's great to see an Irish author achieve such a feat. Can't wait for the next one!

Michael says

I've only read a couple of the present fad of shape-shifter novels but as there are so many it must be difficult to find a different angle on the old story. One of the ways of doing that is to provide your victim/lucky recipient of the 'curse' with a bit of a conscience and a moral code by which to live. In my day the werewolf was all evil and if it had any realisation of what it did when the full moon came out they quite enjoyed it.

Ciaran was in the wrong place at the wrong time and was bitten more accidentally than on purpose. He hasn't a clue what has really happened and his first thought is survival. His success in that means his prize is werewolfdom, something he didn't want but, at least, it means he's still alive. He's also fortunate in that he has a mentor, with much more experience and with many years of living with the condition. (An almost immortality that seems to come with shape-shifters I would consider more of a curse than the shape-changing itself.)

The down side of his condition is that there are always people out there who are out to get him, some because they think they are saving humans, others just because they like to kill. I suppose the latter are those who couldn't even get into the armed forces, there being plenty of opportunities at present to kill people in different parts of the world – with impunity – if you so wish.

But Ciaran isn't entirely innocent. Once he realises, and is able to control his powers, he does take out the occasional person who doesn't, perhaps, deserve such severe punishment, however unpleasant they might be. Nonetheless he quickly learns that after having his fill of his kill he has to carefully dispose and hide the remaining evidence. Too many disappearances and chewed up bodies would alert the hunters, both professional and amateur. Yet another negative consequence of social media where information can travel around the world at speed.

However, it isn't Ciaran's inexperience which brings the hunters but his erstwhile mentor's disillusionment with humanity and thirst for revenge following the death of his wife. This brings the teacher and the pupil into conflict in which only one can survive.

Also, as in all good shape-shifter novels, there's always more than one non-human involved somewhere. Our hero has to deal with witches apart from anything else but as with werewolves, some are good and some are bad. Teaming up with the good witch works well for Ciaran but it also means she will get close to the firing line of those who come after him, so adding to his woes. Silver bullets and silver coated knives do their worse but she is there to help him recover.

There are also good and bad hunters and fortunately, towards the end of the novel, he meets up with some of the former. When we come to the last page the biggest danger the allies have to face is their college exams – until the arrival of the next group of hunters.

For its genre this novel worked well and was an easy read and, unlike some attempts at such a story, was well written with a good structure.
