



## Awakened by the Wolf

*Kristal Hollis*

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## **Awakened by the Wolf** Kristal Hollis

Who's been sleeping in the Alpha's bed?

Exiled from his pack by his father, Brice Walker has secretly come home to visit his ailing grandmother only to discover a human and very desirable female sleeping in his bed. Their attraction is instant. But his new bed buddy seems determined to resist his Southern charm and Alpha allure.

For Brice, fiercely independent Cassie not only represents a chance to build a new life in Walker's Run but is also his one true mate. Cassie's reluctance dissolves when a rogue shifter kidnaps her, and now she and Brice must work together to save his pack. But once she witnesses the savagery of wolfan justice, can Cassie accept Brice as man, beast and her true love?

## **Awakened by the Wolf Details**

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Author : Kristal Hollis

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Contemporary, Adult, Category Romance, Harlequin

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## **From Reader Review Awakened by the Wolf for online ebook**

### **Melody May (What I'm Reading) says**

Posted on What I'm Reading

I was able to finish Awakened by the Wolf by Kristal Hollis. I have to say that I enjoyed the story. In Awakened by the Wolf, we meet a group of werewolves known as the Wahyas. We learn about their customs, which is a little different from other shifter stories I have read. Anyway, we meet Brice Walker and he's under the impression that he's banished from his family's land. However, he needs to see his grandmother when he stumbles upon our heroine, Cassie.

Okay, I struggle with Cassie through most of the book. She's fiercely independent, and feels that if she asks for help from anybody, she's weak. Which is completely misconstrued, but that is a completely different story. During the story we see her fighting Brice's protective instincts and his feelings for her through most of the story. Now Brice I did like a lot. He was patient, and not so at times with Cassie. Yet majority of the time he was patient and giving her space.

Something that bothered me was something that happens close to the end and Cassie views Brice and his family as animals for what they had to do. In some ways I thought it was naïve of her to think that the Wahyas were the only ones to be brutal than normal human beings. Yes, they are wolves, but humans do atrocious things to other humans too. To paint all shifters like that kind of raise my hackles a little, and to say that if she hadn't come in contact with them put her in danger. Honestly, she can't know that for fact. Anyway, at times she rubbed me the wrong way.

Overall, I liked Awakened by the Wolf. I did like that it was a little different take on shifter breeds. It was a good start for new author. Overall, I liked Brice, and had to warm up to Cassie.

Copy provided by Author via HCBS

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### **Tracy says**

REVIEW TO COME....

Shifters are probably my fave PNR species... AbtW was a great read.

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### **Harlequin Books says**

"Good detail and a nicely paced storyline make Hollis' story an interesting read. Walker's family's shape-shifting mythology is quite different from that you'd find in the typical werewolf tale" (4 stars @ RT Book Reviews).

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### **Kacy Rozier says**

I just love a good wolf book, and this one was no different! Brice has come back after he thought he was banished from his pack because he thought everyone blamed him for his brother's death. Learning that his granny is sick, he goes back to the cabin where he was raised and found a female in his bed. Cassie is working for Brice's granny and his family's resort. Her mom died when she was young and Brice's granny in a way, adopted her. I loved the banter between these two! Brice always seemed to not mind being naked in front of Cassie and Cassie really wasn't that scared that Brice was a Wahya. It took a little time for Cassie to realize that Brice is her mate in every way... this book was a page turner for me! I read it in one sitting.

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### **Eva Millien says**

This new shifter romance is a fascinating and exciting read full of strong, captivating characters that easily pull readers into their story and refuse to let go. The chemistry between Brice and Cassie sizzles with lots of heat but the relationship is an uphill battle, not only because of the fact that Brice is Wayhai and Cassie is human but because of the past and the impact it had on their lives. With the vivid descriptions the author provides the characters really come to life and readers easily connect. Which means that since Brice and Cassie's romance is full of emotional turmoil that readers can't help but get caught up in as they empathize with the characters and the feelings involved in their issues.

The suspense builds throughout the story as Brice and Cassie's romance progresses and there other concerns involving pack members, family and outside influences that adds thrills and excitement to the story and keeping readers hanging on to every word. Danger is also lurking in the background and this Cassie finds herself seeing wolfan justice and that just may be too much for to accept which adds some nail biting tension to the story ensures that readers want to know if this couple manages to achieve their happily ever after. The author has created a fascinating world with some intriguing and unique elements that differs from other shifter romances and gives it the authors own flair and mystique.

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### **Diane Vice says**

Paranormal Romance is one of my favorite genres, and Ms. Hollis did an excellent job with this first book! Brice experiences such physical and emotional pain after being alienated from his pack for five years. Cassie is all alone in the world and trying to keep anyone from getting close enough to hurt her again. Their feelings combust when they first meet, but may not be strong enough to last. Ms. Hollis really pulled me into the story, so I felt a real connection with the characters. This story ran me through the gamut of emotions and kept me riveted from start to finish! I highly recommend this book. I voluntarily read an advanced reader copy of this book.

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### **Ann Lorz says**

It seems like forever since I read a book by Nocturne. I'm very glad that my first foray back into the line was something that I really enjoyed. Awakened by the Wolf is a very enjoyable story.

One of the things I really love about wolves shifters is the mating for life part. Its so romantic to have that one person love you above all else.

In Awakened by the Wolf they are called Wahyas.

You will really enjoy the idea of this book. I really liked the idea of the Wahyas, it's slightly different.

I loved Brice. How sexy is he!!! I'm sighing here! He's all wolf in charge protective of Cassie. Even when she doesn't want or need him to be.

Cassie is a great character too, even if she did jump on the wolf bandwagon a little too quickly. Or maybe it just felt that way by the way the author wrote it. I just feel like she found out he's a wolf and she was like...okay!

As a whole this is a very well-written enjoyable story that will leave you wanting more Wahyas stories.

Reviewed for Romancing the Readers Blog:  
<http://romancingthereaders.blogspot.c...>

Romancing the Readers Facebook Page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/RomancingThe...>

ARC Received for a honest review

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## **Cheesecake says**

Brice and Cassie. That was sooooo.... unromantic!

Brice left town after nearly being killed (like his brother) by rogue shifters. 5 years later he returns to find Cassie in his bed. She has been staying with his grandmother since her trailer was condemned. Cassie grew up on the wrong side of the tracks and her mother's drunken lack of morals have painted the towns' view of her. Brice believes himself to be banished since he and his brother were attacked by weres and his brother died protecting him. But all is not as it seems. I so wanted to like this story. It was great EXCEPT for the fact that the author did her best to crush the romance right out of it!

The ENTIRE book, Cassie whinges on and on about her need to be independent and her fear that Brice's affections were as ephemeral as HER faith in others. The rest of the story was well put together but by 75% I was so sick of her that I kinda wished he would move on for his sake. She was JUST AWFUL!!!!

She basically twists Brice til he becomes a total obnoxious weeny to her. I could understand her being resistant and fearful/distrustful, but after a couple hundred pages of the same, I lost all respect for her, thus crushing the romance of the story to oblivion. i will never read this author again, even if she decides to write something else. Just as well she didn't!

Listened on Audio. Sean Crisden was the reader and was really good except for his voice for the h. It wasn't very female sounding and was kinda whiny, which, since she was already a whiny character... did not help at all!!

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## **Melanie says**

The thing that always bothered me about the Paranormal Romance genre as whole is the concept of consent. Whether it be werewolf (in this case they're called Wahyas), vamps, or whatever under the moonlight male possessiveness to the point of stockholm syndrome will NEVER do it for me. Shockingly enough the concept of consent actually gets discussed in the book and is a deciding factor in Brice's mating and pursuit

of Cassie. He literally tells his wolf to cool it so that they don't ruin their chances with her. And it doesn't stop there! Not once does he pressure her to do anything she doesn't want to do, he leaves her wanting him and that's a pretty dickish but ultimately what makes their romance more meaningful. And I don't know about you but I find that unbelievably hot! Now on to my review!

Honestly, I really liked Cassie- she was level headed than most PR heroines I've read thrown into the supernatural world. Cassie's reaction, reluctance, and acceptance of this world she was thrown into was reasonable, well paced and well written. I really like how Cassie can hold her own, even though she doesn't seem like it according to Brice but I'm pretty sure he's biased and that's just his alpha wolf's instincts to protect. I liked that she'll knee anyone male (Brice included at first) giving her unwanted attention. Now to the wolfman himself.

Brice, all the adjectives to describe a hot alpha male and then some was actually a lot different than most billionaire, playboy, blah blah blah heartthrob too. For one thing even though he did come from money he didn't use any of his monetary means to woo Cassie. Granted Cassie wouldn't let him, but he did other things right too. Let Cassie have the thing she most craved in her life 'stability' and the assurance that her succeeds and fail on her own merits. There were times when his threats of 'hog tying her' to their bed, the backseat, etc. to get her to comply really irked me but ultimately, those threats never really held any water. He did have some growl-ly alpha male moments but when it comes to Wahyas, at least the Walker's Run Pack they seemed to follow more logic than instinct and I really liked that aspect. Wahyas were men, well people who could turn into wolves and not wolves who could turn into people; who were just people trying to live their lives.

The world building Hollis did was AMAZING! And as far as secret societies go this one seems more plausible than carrier owls as their mail delivery system. Wahyas had a Global Council which actually held power, there were still packs and alphas handling out justice but the Council acted as oversight. Though, I would have loved more interaction between the pack and Cassie especially for the book to pass the bechdel test, but I think that state Cassie was in her life at the start in the book towards the latter half really didn't have much room for such relationships. I really hope we get to see this development in other books even if Cassie and Brice aren't taking center stage.

Another reason why I liked this book so much was the way the narrative drop kicks you into Wahyas world and the Walker's Run territory. Since Brice has been gone from friends and family for five years a lot has changed and we get to experience that first hand. I thought this was really clever on Hollis' part as a writer- sowing in seeds for future books. Honestly, I love and thoroughly enjoy when backstories and character past are revealed regardless if they're the main leads or supporting cast, and I can't wait to read more from this author and the world she created.

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## Wattle says

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

**Why I read it:** This popped up in my email in the midst of my reading slump (which I'm pretty much over now - I just don't have a decent amount of time to read, typical!) and my thought process pretty much went 'hmmm I don't really dig werewolves, I'll probably hate it...can't hurt to try it though'...and here we are.

And no, I didn't hate it...actually I'll just go ahead and credit it with pulling me out of my slump properly. Funny what going out of your comfort zone does!

**Plot:** Brice has been exiled from his pack and he returns home in the middle of the night to visit his ill grandmother before she passes. Unfortunately for him there's a girl he doesn't know staying in his grandmother's house, in his bed, wearing his clothes.

Things go pear shaped from there.

**My Thoughts:** So, as stated, werewolves = totally not my thing. I'm firmly in the vampires are more fun camp. This book though? So my thing, perhaps I'm a convert? Time will tell!

Cassie has been staying with Brice's grandmother and helps her out around the house as she juggles a job at the local resort and her studies. She wakes up to discover a naked stranger in her room, only to find out that it's technically *his* room. Brice has returned after being away for quite some time, but it takes a few rather amusing scenes before she'll believe it's actually him.

One thing that bugged me was how quickly she accepted the whole werewolf thing. Sure, she sees the transition with her own eyes, but even then, wouldn't you be super wary knowing you're pretty much surrounded by them? She works for his family (yeah, all werewolves) and just...goes about things as normal. I was expecting her to freak out more, but I suppose it's neither here nor there (and it moved the plot forward).

What I did enjoy was both of them, together and separate. Cassie is headstrong, stubborn and irritatingly against letting anyone help her. She's not in the best of situations and seems to think asking for help is a weakness. Brice on the other hand...I wouldn't call it instalove (definitely instalust) but he became very protective very fast. Both of them have tough pasts, but are moving forward and putting things behind them.

I liked how they helped each other as they navigated becoming sudden housemates and how Cassie tried so hard to resist him (she's not very successful at it haha). Their story was an interesting one, I enjoyed reading about them but I think some of the background characters could have been more fleshed out; particularly those that played a large part in the things that went down. Some of them felt a bit flat to me, but I suppose it was never really *\*about\** them, but their drama does impact the story.

I have no clue if this is part of a series or not, if it was, I'd keep reading it! But either way, I'll be checking out more of Hollis's work in the future.

**In Brief:** A quick and fun paranormal romance read, definitely worth a read if you like the genre (regardless of your species preference!)

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## Brandee (un)Conventional Bookworms says

\*4.5 Stars\*

*Awakened by the Wolf* is a fantastic debut from a promising new voice in paranormal romance. It's also an exciting introduction to a new series featuring some of my favorite supes - Wahyas. Never heard of them? Tsk-tsk. ;) They're wolf shifters - not to be confused with werewolves. And Hollis' Wayha mythos is one I'm anxious to learn more about.

Here are a few of my favorite things about *Awakened by the Wolf*:

1) Hollis' character development. Both Cassie and Brice have been hurt emotionally (physically as well for Brice) and suffered traumatic losses. Both have their reasons for avoiding commitment. Hollis allowed me

inside both their heads so I could feel their turmoil and pain, understand their logic, and sympathize with the emotions they bring out in each other. The supporting cast was also well fleshed out and I look forward to spending more time in Walker's Run.

2) The Wahya mythology. Hollis put her own spin on these shifters and I liked it. There are pack dynamics, politics, etc., but my favorite was that even though a Wahya can find their 'one true mate', it doesn't equal insta-love. Cassie and Brice took the time to get to know one another and fall in love - not just give into the pull of a bond and fall into bed.

3) The intrigue/mystery. Hollis did a nice job of creating tension using pack dynamics and inter-pack politics. There was some subterfuge, some well-intentioned wrongs, and some downright scary bad guys. I was honestly shocked at what all went down and was thrilled Hollis didn't shy away from the darker side of shifters.

All in all, I was delighted with *Awakened by the Wolf*. I think my only complaint would be the unnecessary angst caused by lack of communication. But then, with Brice's and Cassie's pasts, it was understandable and forgivable. I don't know what's up next for the Wahyas of Walker's Run but I'm more than eager to find out.

\*\*I received an eARC from the publisher/author in exchange for an honest review.\*\*

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## **Dottie says**

Brice Walker has secretly come home to visit his ailing grandmother. Upon his arrival he sees no grandma... but instead an attractive red head asleep in his bed.

Kristal Hollis has done a fantastic job of taking readers into the world of the werewolf... er I mean Wayah, all while slightly nodding to classic fairytales such as Little Red Riding Hood and Cinderella. It's a quick and steamy read with a heroine which you truly feel her pain and a hunky alpha male... because who doesn't love those?

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## **Amelia says**

In the first book of the Wahyas of Walker's Run series, there is much originality all throughout the story. The Wahyas are wolf shape-shifters who possess unique traits that I have never before come across, and they also have customs which are exclusively their own. I was totally fascinated by these extraordinary beings, as the imagination of Kristal Hollis has given this particular group of shifters their own special qualities. When one Wahya male with a troubled past unexpectedly encounters a human female, sparks fly and emotional turmoil increases with every new development in their lives. But sometimes what they think is the correct choice to make is not what destiny has in mind for them. AWAKENED BY THE WOLF is captivatingly innovative.

Though Brice Walker agrees with the decision of his father, who is the leader of the Walker's Run pack, to be sent away because of a bad choice, he has missed the Appalachian Mountains where he grew up. After being gone for five years, he has returned in order to see his grandmother as she means much to him. Brice plans to hide the fact he is in the area, as he could be punished for coming back, but he wants to check on his favorite relative. But upon entering his old bedroom at his granny's home, he finds his bed is occupied by a human woman who has no interest in sharing it with him.

By working at the Walker's Run resort and continuing her education, Cassidy Albright is following a plan to

make her future better than her unhappy childhood. Yet circumstances place her in contact with Brice, where they clash again and again. Although they are connected in ways neither wants to mention, these links bring the couple surprisingly closer. For the first time ever, Brice and Cassie realize their lives might turn out differently than they thought if they choose to follow their hearts.

Happenings in AWAKENED BY THE WOLF are easy to envision because of the way in which Kristal Hollis describes any specifics using precise details. Happy times were made all the more enjoyable because of the frequent candid banter spoken by Brice and Cassie to each other, and I repeatedly laughed at their more clever comments. While there are many humorous episodes, there is also much drama that greatly affected me. Family discussions are often heated when Brice is involved, and some of the talks he and Cassie had were almost as intense. The sexual tension between them is heightened by the feelings he was willing to express but she kept unsaid. I really felt for these two, as both their pasts have been filled with heartbreak. Though Cassie wants to remain independent, it leaves her at risk of keeping everyone at a distance. I could see her point because of all she has gone through, but it sure did make for a lonely life. Brice is a wonderful hero, as he is protective plus supportive of those for whom he cares, and his charming personality made me fall in love with him from the very start.

There is some suspense in the story, and I became concerned when it was not clear as to how things would turn out. Some issues are fueled by desire, while others are caused by opposing beliefs, and I often never knew in what manner someone might react. There are several characters in the story that definitely need their own books, and I am very glad AWAKENED BY THE WOLF is the beginning of a series.

Received copy for Always Reviewing blog - 4.5 Stars

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## **Sophia says**

Some opening scenes leave you breathless, others curious, but how about with a fit of the giggles? In a 'who's been sleeping in my bed?' moment, wolf shifter, Brice Walker, realizes that is no sweet little Goldilocks he rouses, but a petite red-headed spitfire who doesn't need a wolf's claws to fight back. And Cassie has the shock of her life by the sexy, naked werewolf who blunders into her room and claims to be a guy she has been crushing over for a while.

Talk about awkward introductions!

But then Brice is forced to face his grandmother's fading health which is the reason for his return from exile and the promise she exacts from him to make amends with the father and pack alpha who threw him out for causing the death of his brother. For a reason he doesn't want to explore too closely, Cassie soothes him and he needs her with him because she can't be his mate. She's human. And besides, he won't claim a mate because he plans on accepting an appointment that won't allow him to have a mate. So why does everything in him cry out that she is his true mate and why does he absolutely need to protect and possess her?

Cassie grew up with an alcoholic for a mother who would do anything for her booze and then left Cassie alone after succumbing to her bad liver. Cassie will rise above her beginnings as the trailer trash daughter of an alcoholic and she has a plan to do it. The plan does not include forming attachments or letting a certain pushy, sexy wolf shifter distract her. It's hard enough learning that werewolves exist, but now this one thinks they're mates. And another one that scares the willies out of her thinks she's prey. While a third one insists Brice is hers and Cassie will stay out of the way or else. For all that she fights her feelings and attractions for Brice, Cassie can't abandon him knowing that he is weighted down with guilt over his brother's death, his exile from his home and pack, and his grief over his grandmother. And as stubbornly as she clings to her independence and need to take care of herself, a part of her wants to believe Brice about being his.

The story is a nice blend of shifter romance, intrigue, passion, humor, and strong character development. The opening was a little confusing for me to sort out what was what, but once I got up to speed, I enjoyed the overall story, characters, and romance.

The author built in some intrigue and conflict that suited the story. There is much more going on than meets the eye to give depth, though, in essence, it isn't too complex.

The conflicts involve the struggle of Brice and Cassie individually with their own personal demons, but also with each other. And then there are external issues crowding in involving pack members, family issues, and pack politics.

There's actually a lot going on. This was probably my only niggle. It doesn't confuse me, but it does clip along so that some things feel rushed or glossed over by the end. I would have liked to see Brice's reunion with his pack and family teased out more just like an understanding of the rivalries with the other packs. What happened at the big climax and reveal scene left me feeling partly dissatisfied. I got the general idea, but just wanted more, I guess.

I thought it was refreshing that the author wrote Cassie as scared and reluctant with her introduction to the world of wolf shifters. Cassie is forced to believe because she sees Brice shift into a wolf and back, but that doesn't suddenly make her a fan. The author also paints her wolf shifters as people, but there is a darker side when the wolves go rogue and their harsher laws that frighten Cassie.

I also liked how the true mate bond is portrayed. This isn't insta-love. Both Cassie and Brice struggle with the attraction and have their reasons for denial, but they can't seem to help themselves, either. She was very damaged by her upbringing and has abandonment and trust issues while Brice has something similar going on for different reasons. She shuts down and he denies, but they also both reach out and offer comfort and reassurance to the other. Oh, and look out if someone else shows an interest. They each might deny and ignore, but at heart, they know the truth.

All in all, I was well pleased with my first time reading this author's books and her engaging shifter romance. Her infusion of humor and heart to the passion and intrigue of her story kept me well-satisfied. I definitely recommend it to those who enjoy spicy paranormal romance and particularly shifter romance.

My thanks to The Herd Presents for an opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Jean Smith says**

### **A definite page turner!**

I love a good paranormal romance with elements of mystery and suspense. *Awakened by the Wolf* offers an unresolved murder from the hero's past and plenty of action as an old enemy rears his head in a bid to take over the pack's territory. The enemy is a mystery as well as his machinations. But as this homecoming and romance unravel so too does the truths of the past.

Years ago, Brice Walker and his brother were set upon. His older brother, the alpha in waiting was killed and Brice spent ages in a coma recovering. The guilt riding him is deep and he lives under the misguided assumption that he has been banned from his pack. When his grandmother takes ill Brice sneaks back onto the pack compound to see her. What he finds though is a human occupying his bedroom. The sparks fly from the moment they meet and destiny is set in motion.

Cassie has been fighting the legacy of being the daughter of a trailer trash drunk for years. Slowly but surely she's worked her way up and out after burying her mom a couple years back. Having worked for Brice's grandmother as a housekeeper since her early teens she moved in when the trailer park was condemned and she lost the only home she had. Now she works for the family resort while putting herself through college. With granny's hospitalization, her housing situation is in jeopardy once again. That is unless she can come to some kind of arrangement with Brice.

Negotiating with his reluctant mate is definitely a challenge for Brice. Keeping Cassie safe while he attempts to charm his way into his own bed might just prove even more of a challenge. The past has come calling in a very threatening way. Not only is his pack threatened but his mate as well. *Awakened by the Wolf* has its emotional roller coaster moments including plenty of humor, loving, frustration, anger, grieving and fear. So if you like a good romance that can stir things up along the way to HEA this is one paranormal that fills the bill... a definite page turner.

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