



Mortal Sins

Eileen Wilks

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FBI agent Lily Yu is in North Carolina with her lover and mate, Rule Turner, Lu Nuncio of the Nokolai werewolf clan. He is there to take custody of his son from the boy's grandmother. It's a purely personal trip until Rule, in wolf form, finds three bodies in a shallow grave. They carry the stench of death magic, which makes the murders a federal crime. Lily takes charge of the investigation and soon realizes that nothing adds up- not the motives or the main suspect, who is behind bars when death strikes again.

But murder, however bizarre, is an everyday affair for Lily, who was a homicide cop before being recruited into the FBI's Magical Crimes Division. A more personal shock arrives in the form of Rule's son's mother. Why would she now challenge Rule's plan to bring his son to live among the Nokolai? But family matters must take a backseat when the violence escalates, and there's no rhyme or reason for the next strike- by a killer who may not even be of this world.

Mortal Sins Details

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Author : Eileen Wilks

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From Reader Review Mortal Sins for online ebook

Jilly says

She did what she did out of choice, and his Chosen chose him over and over.

Lily and Rule were thrown together in the werewolf equivalent of an arranged marriage, but since then they have grown to love each other. Still, it may have felt like a rip-off that we never got to see them in a romance, and organically fall in love. But, little by little, we have been seeing them grow into a great couple. The big question would always be in our minds, though: would they have picked each other without the mating-bond? Would their relationship survive the loss of the mating-bond?

Questions are answered in this book.

The relationships in this book are so well developed. It feels real and right. I love the world, but I love the characters even more. It has all been slowly coming together as the series goes on.

especially when there is blood and death in that plan...

Aside from the personal side, there is a mystery of a wraith that is killing people. They have to figure out how to kill something that is already dead and has a thirst for blood.

Quick! To the pointy sticks!

This book had a lot going on, which I liked. I never felt bored, and it never got so "explainy" that I learned anything. I'm not here to learn. Stop trying to educate me, books!! Just entertain me.

Strangely, I am...

Choko says

*** 4.25 ***

The more I read this series, the more I like it. What I like about it - it tells its story through actions and series of events, it does not "tell us" what to think and feel, it just lets us experience it. I have noticed that I have become quite impatient toward stories which get bogged down into telling us all the emotions the characters are feeling, just to justify their actions or angst. Thus the Lupi series has my favor at this time - it just is. Action, reaction, life and death, it is there for us to experience it first hand, not through being spoon-fed emotions and wondering why the heck the characters are acting so ridiculous... Is it perfect? Of course not. Far from it. Lily and Rule can be preachy at times, always feeling a bit to righteous, a bit to proper, and much to amazingly awesome, and nobody likes the "special snowflakes" all the time... But they also have vulnerabilities and sweetness, which balance out the violence and spookiness that is always present. They boast a great supporting cast as well, starting with the Wizard-Wolf-Stripper and his Finder wife, and in this volume, the friends of Rule's son Toby and his granny - I truly enjoyed them all.

If you are feeling like reading a fun and action-packed were-wolf series, this is not a bad choice at all!!! In fact, it is one of the top 10 for sure. Lily's practicality, competency and strength, as well as her vulnerability and insecurities are a wonderful blend of qualities you would like in your best friend or family members. She is a bit cagey, but can you blame her - she is Magic-sensitive and despite not being able to use magic, she can feel it all around her and can recognize it in the people she gets into contact with. It so happens that her boyfriend, being the heir of his Pack and all, as well as her job, are constantly putting her in situations where magic is the main reason for danger and life-threatening encounters. In *Mortal Sins* Lily and Rule are visiting one of the Southern States where his son is being raised by his maternal grandmother. They are trying to get full custody of him, while some creature, somehow associated with death magic, is possessing regular folks in the area and is making them kill randomly. It actually got quite spooky at times and I was glued to the pages! Finished it in no time and was kind of happy with the ending, despite it being a bit too syrupy sweet...

Overall, I will recommend this series to anyone who can handle some romance with their werewolves and magic:):):) And there was one very, very adorable kid and his friend in there, soooo...:):):)

Now I wish you Happy Reading and many more wonderful Books to come!!!

Trix says

- [- Rule's court hearing for full custody of Toby;
 - Alicia's plan to take Toby and inject him with poison to prevent the Change;
 - the risk that Toby might get cancer at his first Change;
 - Rule taking ownership of the Leidolf mantle;
 - the wraith (poor Charley);
 - the mate bond and Lili's weakness to spiritual attacks. (hide spoiler)]
-

Emily says

Ahh, so nice to get back to Lily and Rule! Their story took a few surprising directions this time, and the twist with the wraith was great. I love this author's imagination. Dialogue got a little explanatory at times, but the story built momentum like it always does, and I stayed up way past my bedtime to finish.

Sophia says

Finally back to this series. I love *World of the Lupi* and got distracted from it, but it is my goal to get caught up on the series this year.

So yes, this is an engaging urban fantasy series that focuses on the author's intricate and fabulous werewolf world, but isn't limited to weres. All other forms of supernatural drop in for the series which is an exciting blend of paranormal, suspense, action, and romance.

It is an ongoing story that really needs to be read in order to get the full, wondrous effect and backstory for the main characters and their world. This is book five of the series and I think I can avoid major spoilerage though minor spoilers will seep through. Can't be helped.

The story opens with Lily and Rule arriving in North Carolina on business of a personal kind- Rule is there to attend the court hearing that will finally relinquish his son into his care. As Lupi, Toby will soon need to be with his clan as he goes into his First Change and Rule is eager to have Toby with him after all the years of Toby living with his maternal grandmother.

But then Rule discovers the bodies while out running in his wolf form. They are coated with death magic. Instead of Lily being there to support Rule and Toby, she is now presented with a new case for the FBI's magic division. Hostile local law enforcement, a mysterious killer, tension with the local werewolf clan, Rule's ex suddenly taking an interest in Toby and the court hearing, and difficult no win choices make this trip one that will make or break Lily and Rule.

As I said, it has been some time since I read the last installment of the series, but it was easy to slip back into the incredible magical world that Eileen Wilks has created. I was so excited to see the large portions of Rule and Toby's narration along with Lily's in this book. Rule and Lily's mate bond is so unique, but the telling up to this point has been balanced more toward Lily. The equal time with Rule was a gift.

This book had the usual paranormal suspense case for Lily to solve with the help of Rule and the gang, but I also like that it gave equal time to some threads that have intrigued me from the beginning. Finally, I got to encounter Toby's mother up close and personal and in scenes with Rule and Lily. Sparks flew of course and she made it interesting for the situation of Toby's legal custody. Then there was the time spent for Lily and Rule to truly consider what they have together apart from the mate bond that forced them. What are they as a couple if that bond wasn't there? They get to find out and I loved getting that part of their story. Then there was Rule and Lily- particularly Rule- having to transition from being a parent at a distance to being an everyday parent for Toby. And naturally, there is more to it than that since he is a Lupi with special issues.

Toby gets a lot of page time and I liked that since the whole custody thing and some other startling reveals revolve around him. I thought the author got his feelings and actions just right for a kid who is confused by all that he feels and is confronted by big changes ahead.

And of course, for those who adore the sexy wolf Cullen, he and Cyanna are around to keep it fun and real.

The case is a twisty one and has some shocking and disturbing aspects. I love how the author can create that atmosphere of danger and mystery and present a case that isn't easily figured out.

All in all, this was a abso-fab reunion with the World of the Lupi for me and I can't wait to continue. I highly recommend this series for those who enjoy their Urban Fantasy blended with a mystery and an intriguing werewolf culture.

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

4/5; 4 stars; A-

There is a lot going on in this book, both on a personal front for Lily and Rule, and in the clans. I think that Wilks did a great job of balancing out the storyline of Toby's custody with the progression,of Rule's role in Leidolf and the "Lady's" overall agenda.

Mei says

This keep getting better and better! :)

I love how every book introduces new elements to the world! It's the most excellent thing in this series!

Obviously the characters are wonderful too!

What I enjoy most is their being constant to themselves! They don't act stupid, they don't rush head-fist into danger! They have a healthy reasoning and, incredibly, for this world is a place where magic, strange things occur, everything makes sense!!!!

On to the next... :)

Shannon C. says

4.5 stars: Great paranormal romance mixed with a good amount of mystery and adventure

FBI agent Lily Yu is on vacation with her werewolf mate Rule Turner. They are in NC awaiting a court case to gain custody of his son. While running as a wolf, Rule comes across several bodies. Since its determined that they were killed due to magical means, Lily's boss asks her to take the case. With her gift as a Sensitive she is one of the few who is immune to Death Magic. There are lots of twists and turns to the plot--not only in the case Lily investigates but also in what unfolds with their family dramas and personal lives. There's several edge of your seat moments. And the ending of this book was soooo romantic and such a surprise. A cannot put down book!

I've read all of the World of Lupi books. Tempting Danger, Mortal Sins (this book) and Blood Magic are my favorites in the entire series. If you like under urban fantasy or paranormal romance, give this series a try. The books have rich, complex plotlines that involve a good mix of mystery, suspense, action and romance. Wilks writes appealing, believable characters that I continue to think about after putting down the books. I really like the main characters Lily and Rule and key supporting cast like Cullen and Lily's grandmother. In this book I also really connected with Rule's young son and his fiesty grandmother. The character development and dialogue is well done.

The author also does a good job bringing in interesting cases for Lily to work--the magical slants are especially creative. Before my current Urban Fantasy/Paranormal Romance kick, I used to read a lot of Mystery/Suspense. I think fans of cop books who are open to magic in their stories, would also enjoy this series. Only negative I've come across in some of the books is the pacing. Some of them (not this one) got a bit slow in parts but then they always picked back up, so it's not a major thing. I tend to like a lot of action and suspense, so that may just be personal preference.

World of Lupi reading order:

- 1: Tempting Danger
- 2: Mortal Danger
- 3: Blood Lines
- 4: Night Season
- 5: Mortal Sins
- 6: Blood Magic
- 7: Blood Challenge

If you are looking for more great books simliar in style, check out some of my favorites:

Mercy Thompson series and Alpha & Omega series by Patricia Briggs (Don't miss the anthology in On the Prowl, which is a prequel to Cry Wolf)

Kate Daniels series by Ilona Andrews

Night Huntress series by Jeaniene Frost

Guild Hunters series by Nalini Singh

Chicagoland Vampires series by Chloe Neill

Julie (jjmachshev) says

I just adore Eileen Wilks' Lupi series. "Mortal Sins" is book five and heroine Lily Yu is the best. She's a take-charge, don't take crap, stand up for what's right regardless of the cost kinda gal...and she has one of the sexiest four-to-two-legged wolf guys you'll ever read about. This is one series that just keeps getting bigger and better.

Lily and Rule are in North Carolina on a personal vacation. Rule is about to finally get custody of his son--a son who will likely one day become the Rho of the Nokolai clan. While on a four-legged run, Rule scents something bad. Death magic. After a quick confirmation by Lily, she's put in charge of the case in her capacity as an agent of the FBI Magical Crimes Division. But this small town may not be big enough for death magic, a custody battle, wraiths, werewolves, bigots, and murder.

I'm not going to try to explain this series if you haven't been reading it. I will tell you that it's a mix of sizzling sex, magic, dragons, Chinese lore, Wiccans, werewolves, Voodoo, and a bunch of other wild things that Wilks' somehow manages to combine into a seamless series of mysteries with romance, action, suspense, and even a bit of humor at times. Where else will you find a series that has one hero who is a werewolf magician former-stripper? Yeah...this is the only one I can think of too.

Jen Davis says

I'll admit, I haven't been 100% sold on the Rune and Lily relationship. One of the reason I liked Night Season so much is because I enjoyed watching the romance evolve between Cynna and Cullen. Theirs isn't a mate bond; they're together because they want to be... because they love each other. In this book, I finally felt the love that ties together Lily and Rune as something more than a physical connection. It's real. It would exist even without bond. And it made such a difference.

The story picks up with Lily and Rune ready to finally take custody of Rune's son, Toby. But nothing is simple for these two. Not only is there trouble on that front, but a major case pops up in town and only Lily can take point. Someone is using death magic to kill people, but in no way that anyone has seen before. She must split her focus on figuring out the mystery and supporting her mate as Toby's mom blows back into town.

This is my favorite book by far featuring this couple. I enjoyed it every bit as much as I did Night Season. The author has shaken off the uneven plotting. The story flows well. It's engaging. And she ties in all the elements in a very organic way. There is a lot of action, but also a lot of character development, just the right blend, in fact.

Another thing I liked? More exploration into the two clans Rule is now linked to. I was really interested in seeing what those two mantles mean for him and for his family. And I loved the way it plays out here. It feels like this was something Eileen Wilks always had planned, which makes me all the more excited to see what she has in store next.

I'm a little sad we didn't get to see Lily's grandmother, but there are plenty of secondary characters who get to shine, especially Toby. I was a bit surprised at how much I liked his Grammy too. I would like to get to know Alex a bit better. And of course, there is Cullen, who I just adore. Marriage isn't slowing him down one bit. (Which reminds me, make sure you read "Cyncerely Yours" to catch his wedding ceremony, or you will feel the lack.)

I'm finally feeling the excitement about these books that so many of my fellow readers seem to have. And the ending here... such a lovely surprise. You don't want to miss it.

Rating: B+/A-

Catherine says

I was very glad to get back to Lily and Rule as the main characters. I think that switching to a different set of lead characters for a book or two was a great idea to keep the series fresh, and I was really excited to read about Cynna and Cullen originally, but I ended up not really enjoying their storyline that much. So, getting back to Lily and Rule was something of a relief.

This isn't a series that I feel you can pick up in the middle. Each book builds on each other and I think you'll lose the attachment and care you'd have after reading the other books if you jumped into the series here. I think this series is good enough to make reading all of the books worth it, but that's just me. :)

I really liked getting to see more of Toby in this book. His very existence is so important to Rule that I've been craving more information about their relationship. I certainly got that here, and I was very pleased by how that whole situation resolved.

Occasionally things got a bit slow while reading, but it always ended up picking back up. The storyline with Toby and the storyline with the magically influenced murders really kept my attention. I think Wilks does an excellent job making Lily's job seem lifelike and interesting without boring the reader with too much tedious detail.

Rule and Lily continue to be the main draw of this series. Even after so many books in the series I still find their relationship interesting to read about. The author continues to have them work through the issues that arise and shows them both working to navigate the unfamiliar waters of the mate bond.

I think one of my favorite things about this series is that in the midst of all these paranormal creatures, Lily and Rule seem like a *normal* couple doing the best that they can to work out their issues to make sure their relationship continues to be happy. And I don't mean normal as in Romance couple normal, I mean real life

normal.

Lily and Rule talk things out and don't have huge misunderstandings that create high drama for the reader. They disagree and they occasionally snipe, but if they're mad they usually back away and then come back together later to try to work things out. They don't scream and throw things and play the hate game. They seem real and I love them for it. Don't get me wrong, I like drama, but I *crave* relationships like this in more of my books.

I loved the way that this story developed, but I feared for a while there that I would have to reach through the book and strangle a certain mother. I CANNOT believe she did that. I know that she loves him (even if it's not healthy) but I still haven't forgiven her, even if other characters have. I wouldn't be displeased at all to hear that something unfortunate had occurred and she would never again be able to mess up their lives.

The end of this book had my eyebrows shooting up in surprise. I had been wondering if that would ever crop up, and I'm excited to see where the author goes with it.

edge of bubble says

I'm not in a mood to do a review rn, so I'll be short and a little bit spoilery...

Nice look at ghost stories. Plot was different as always.

I loved what happened with the bond. It let us see whether the relationship between Rule and Lily was real or forced upon them.

Finally Toby turned into a reality in their lives instead of being just a plot point. I don't like when kids are hidden in the closet to take them out only when story needs a shake down. I loved his PoVs. He is really cute and I felt for him as his feelings are revealed.

Oh and Cullen. Sigh. That's it.

Mitabird says

Mortal Sins was excellent and this series just keeps getting better and better. I was happy that Lily and Rule were the main focus in this book. They are in North Carolina to get full custody of his son, when Rule finds some bodies in the woods. These bodies have a trace of death magic and Lily starts the investigation of what killed them and why. This story was suspenseful and kept me on the edge of my seat. I enjoyed every aspect of this book and I cannot wait to read the next one.

Carol. says

Every now and then I read a review that mentions something along the lines of, "I'm not going to summarize this book because you can read the description."

You kids are so cute with your functioning memories. Despite having placed book #7 of the series on my TBR list, I did not remember the general plots of books #3-#6, so I decided that I must have skipped them. Until I reached the last third of *Mortal Sins* and recognized a particularly tense emotional scene. I thought I remembered how it turned out, but I peeked to be sure. So I will continue to remind myself of the plots, who narrates and all those silly things, because apparently, if I don't, I won't.

However, don't consider that a mark against *Mortal Sins* or this series. In fact, I'd go so far as to say that people who would like a police procedural combined with a world rich in *lupi* and magic could do far worse than to pick up Eileen Wilk's *World of the Lupi* series. In most of them, particularly the first, Detective Lily Yu and Rule Turner, poster boy for the *lupi*-rights movement, are the leading protagonists. As the series progresses, each book may bring in other viewpoints depending on the case being worked. *Mortal Sins* concentrates almost exclusively on the stories of Lily and Rule as they attempt to wrap up issues in D.C./Virginia area.

Mortal Sins has two major plots: the personal one of a custody hearing for Rule's son, Toby; and the professional one of a series of seemingly unconnected killers who are almost fatally confused and whose victims smell of death magic. I thought the balance between the two was handled quite well, resulting in Lily and Rule feeling like a typical busy professional couple who were trying to balance needs of personal, family and professional lives. When Rule discovers the missing victims and both he and Lily note the death magic, she eagerly takes over the case on behalf of the FBI. Meanwhile, as Rule deals with Leidolf pack issues from the last book, the press gets wind he is in town on personal matters.

It's fun to watch Lily work, as her competence, focus, and drive often set those unused to her off balance. There's often some power dynamics when has to work with other agencies, and Wilks doesn't shy from bringing up sex, race, or species issues. Honestly, it's always a pleasure. Lily's such a *thinking* person, and her technique is to ask frequent questions, which often results in interesting answers for both her and the reader. Rule, however, often seems to be the *feeling* part of the couple, an absolutely enjoyable turnaround from normal female and male characterizations. The investigation struggles at first, as the team tries to sort out likely from unlikely scenarios. The fact that a great deal of magic was let into the world seven months ago means everyone is still discovering ramifications.

Wilks does a nice job of keeping the focus on the investigation and the family issues without getting distracted too much by prior plots or side characters. That said, it is likely a series that is harder to pick up without reading book one and two where Wilks does a more thorough introduction to her world. There's a bit of awkward info-dumping in the beginning of this one, but it's a nice shorthand for those forgetful folks (*cough, cough*). I thought characterization was extremely impressive, from Lily and Rule progressing, to Toby's nine-year-old perspective, to Granny.

I'd recommend this series to fans of urban fantasy. I think if you wanted to like Anne Bishop's *Others* series, but found it boring and illogical, this might be more palatable. Or if you liked early Anita Blake (minus the multiple sex scenes; while present here, they are quickly completed). I also suspect fans of the earlier Kate Daniels might enjoy this; while there isn't the prevalent humor and new mythology, there's a kick-ass, competent woman in charge. Thinking about it, I'd say it most feels like Shaefer's Daniel Faust series, with less smart-ass. Really, it's become my new favorite candy series, although it feels more satisfying than your average Skittles. Maybe it's a brownie read: solid and satisfying.

Note: series continues to maintain it's lead for "Worst Cover Art for a Series," 2018 reads edition.

Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says

Grade: A+ and/or strong 5 Stars

Mortal Sins has action, mystery, a strong story, convincing dialogue, a little bit of horror and romance. The storytelling is focused and fast-paced. What's not to love?

The Story

Lily and Rule are in North Carolina for personal and clan reasons. Rule is seeking custody of his son Toby, who has long been kept from him by his former lover and her mother. Carrying partial Leidolf mantle, he will also perform the *gens compleo*, a ceremony accepting young wolves as full adults, for a clan who was once an enemy of the Nikolai Clan. The trip is stressful and becomes further complicated when bodies are discovered with death magic lingering. Lily, a Gifted FBI agent, must use her resources and sharp mind to prevent death from spreading in an extraordinary case.

My Thoughts

Lily and Rule were terrific together. They are capable of working as a unit and independently. The author didn't throw in any unnecessary angst or drama. After the events between Cynna and Cullen, I wasn't sure if there wouldn't be any fallout and drama between these two. They work efficiently with little words and effective communication.

The secondary characters were fleshed out without being distracting or silly. Ms. Wilks subtly shades her characters without overpowering their personalities or dropping them into neat niches. There wasn't an ass substituting as the sheriff, or a buffoon FBI agent who screws things up. They were human and felt real. There also wasn't the parade of previous characters that authors throw in to appease fans. Cullen arrives in town to help Lily without Cynna tagging along. She was busy, and the author didn't unnecessarily use her. The appearance of Toby's mother was effective and affecting. Alicia was a bitch then she wasn't. She had a moment where she shined, just a bit. It was enough.

In the past, I found Ms. Wilks attention to detail distracting. Sometimes, she would go into such detail my eyes felt like crossing. This book was so smooth. The plot, subplots, characters, and evil presence were woven in such a clean way I never felt the need to skip a single word. (I'm guilty of skimming through settings. Well, and sometimes sex scenes. Shhh.)

Summing It Up

This was a damn good book!
