



Fang and Claw

Marguerite 'Markie' Madden

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Over a hundred years in the future, it's a world where supernatural beings live and work among humans. Of course, the governments of the world have forced them to take the Undead Oath in order to gain citizenship; they must not prey on humans for food. They're given tasks in jobs suited for their species, but just as among other minorities, they must struggle to prove themselves.

Lieutenant Lacey Anderson of the Dallas Police Department heads up a new elite squad dedicated to solving crimes involving Immortal species like herself. Lacey, a Vampire left for dead hundreds of years ago when her family was slaughtered by Werewolves, still has nightmares about the grievous ordeal.

Detective Colton Scarber is her unwilling partner and second-in-command of the unit. He's a Werewolf, a descendant of those who killed Lacey's family. She doesn't know this, but she still doesn't trust him from the start. When the fragile beginning of the team is threatened by the truth, can they learn to trust one another as partners must, or will the Undead Unit be doomed to failure?

A mysterious suspect and strange, unknown physical evidence leads them to solve a case spanning decades, and leaves Lacey with no other choice but to rely on her enemy when her very life is in danger!

Fang and Claw Details

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From Reader Review Fang and Claw for online ebook

Marie says

I don't usually read the crime genre but this book was amazing! The strained relationship between Lacey and Colton is laid out in perfect detail. The supernatural element was almost irrelevant, the characters became so human in my eyes! Even during slow moments, the characters kept the story interesting, moving from forced kindness and stiff responses at the beginning to humor and playful banter by the end. And the mysterious case certainly kept me in suspense.
Great read!

Phillip Stephens says

Patience and procedure trump sex and gore

3.5 stars

Markie Madden's *Fang and Claw* delivers a promising, fresh approach to paranormal fiction which, unfortunately, may fail to deliver for every reader. Paranormal romance fans will miss the constant coupling of female heroine with vampire, werewolf and other immortal species—not to mention the emotional wrangling as she's forced to choose between them. Paranormal thriller fans will miss the visceral violence as limbs fly and blood spatters walls and bystanders. Literary fiction fans, well, they probably won't read it any way.

Instead Madden delivers a solid police procedural with a heavy dose of paranormal psychodrama. And that's sad, because this makes *Fang and Claw* an original approach to paranormal fiction that could turn into a rare gem as Madden develops as a writer. Madden emphasizes the everyday detail of the search and wait required by law to build a solid case rather than the bloodlust of the beast.

Think of *Fang and Claw* as *X-Files* meets *Law and Order SVU*, with Mulder and Scully being Lycan and Vampire. Scully is 500-year-old vampire Lacey Anderson, Dallas Police Lieutenant assigned to the Undead Crimes Unit and to supervise werewolf Colt Scarber, whose pack wiped out her clan in 1600s Athens.

Lacey can't forget this fact, unfortunately, nor can the readers because Madden reminds us just about every other page, managing to drag up the grudge at every possible opportunity and dropped hint. Just when you think we've got it and the story's back on track, she's pouring her sob story out to someone else—her bartender, department mandated shrink, the lab tech unfortunate enough to take the latest DNA handoff. (Besides, she's been a vampire for five hundred years. She's not a teen anymore. If a vampire couldn't get over it, then you would hope a cop with a hundred years in homicide would grow a thicker skin.)

When Madden does remember to return to the plot, she builds a solid one, a good procedural built around a skinwalker who serially assaults his victims. (No real spoiler alert here, they identify the suspect half-way through the book and most of the novel depicts they handle the evidence to prove their case in a court of law). Unfortunately, skinwalkers are so rare no one believes they exist anymore, and Madden once again needs to remind readers of this at every opportunity. Every character involved in the chain of evidence, including the janitor, is compelled by the author to say, "Skinwalkers are real? I thought they were myths."

Being a first time writer, Madden misses too many opportunities to build real dramatic intrigue and character development into the story line. A skinwalker plays heavily in Anderson's traumatic history as well current

case, but Madden never thinks to bring involve the same skinwalker in both, or to use him to threaten Anderson.

Nor does she really explore the motif of Lycan anger. She teases the reader with the fact that Scarber has to attend anger-management classes but in the end Madden almost paints him as a teddy bear partner for Anderson and ideal husband. She never explores the reality Sarber deals daily with the prospect of falling into genetically and culturally-ingrained patterns of abuse towards his wife and cubs at home (in fact, he never thinks of his children as cubs as do Bill Willingham's characters Big Bad Wolf and Snow White).

I also found myself wondering why, when Madden feels compelled to project the reader forward to the world of 2118 before Immortal Rights are accepted (when almost every other PN and PNR writer doesn't), technology failed to advance much past 2020. The singularity clearly hasn't occurred, the most advanced technology police use is wireless tablets, people still drive cars and still watch movies on TV and DVDs. It's as though the world of Neuromancer never happened, nor did climate change, or any major political shift.

We can hope readers will forgive Madden for breaking from the paranormal formula and stick with her as she explores the series. We can also hope she'll learn from some of her mistakes as the series continues. She has talent that other indie writers lack. The limitation of the time lapse, however, is one readers will have to live with. In Madden's world our grandchildren will still be watching DVDs on low resolution HDTV in a hundred years and driving cars on polluted streets. And, no doubt, the Dallas Cowboys will still be 8-8 under their Vampire owner Jerry Jones.

Rating system:

5 = Delicious dialogue, crisp prose, clever characters & compelling plot

4 = Great read, won't want to stop

3 = Definitely worth buying

2 = I will tell you what audience will like this, but most readers will want to look elsewhere

1 = If I review a book this bad I felt seriously compelled to warn you

Phillip T. Stephens is the author of Cigaretts, Guns & Beer, Raising Hell and the new release Seeing Jesus. You can follow him @stephens_pt.

K.S. Marsden says

Lacey has worked for the human police for decades, which makes her the perfect person to head up the new Undead Unit. With her partner, they have to find out if there is a startling link behind several new cases.

I won an ecopy in Rainne's Book Reviews giveaway last month. This has been on my reading list for ages, and I really enjoyed it.

It's hard to describe this story, as there are so many elements.

Yes, the main characters are a vampire and a werewolf; but this is a really solid detective drama.

It's also set 100 years in the future, with all the scientific improvements. The world is one where undeads are recognised as useful members of society.

Best of all (in my opinion), this does not dissolve into a mushy romance!

The story follows Lacey, a vampire, as she goes about running the Undead Unit in a society where undeads are still treated differently. She also has to come to terms with being foisted with Colton as a partner, a temperamental werewolf.

Despite the fantasy and futuristic elements, the story is very grounded and realistic. There is an everyday feel

to it, as Lacey and Colton are... well, doing their day job, and following procedure. There is a sense of logic to how they progress with the mystery, and the steps they have to take, even when they know who the bad guy is. This sometimes came across as a little too procedural, I couldn't decide whether I appreciated all the technical info, or found it a little slow.

As mentioned before, this book doesn't depend on any romantic tropes, which is so refreshing in this genre. There are friendships, and the development of professional relationships, that keep your attention, and help gain sympathy for the characters.

I'm looking forward to reading the rest of the series!

Amy says

Everything about this book is poorly thought out. The characters are stereotypes who lack any emotional depth or realism. Even the police procedural parts are cliché and not thrilling in the least. I was bored when I wasn't irritated by the simplicity.

1 - The main character is supposed to be an ancient Greek, but she's tall, blonde, and named Lacie??

2 - She has worked as a cop for decades longer than anyone else, and yet she has never considered she might have to put a criminal in the back seat of her car?

Not even to mention that a cop she trained is now her boss?

If the author is suggesting that she's was passed up for promotion due to being a vampire, why isn't that a bigger issue? Why would this apparently proud, independently wealthy vampire tolerate being discriminated against?

3 - Her boss knowingly assigns her to work with a wolf who is from the same family line that murdered her family. And then he doesn't really take her seriously when she finds out, and is upset.

What police chief doesn't take a female employee (especially one that, apparently has been a good employee for years) seriously when she comes to him crying and shaking and afraid of her male coworker (with anger problems)?

Go read Mark Henwick's Bite Back series (or almost anything else) instead of this.

Jan says

Fine police procedural set in Dallas, Tx, in the future when those who are discriminated against are the shifters, vampires, zombies, and the like. Heading up the newly formed Undead Unit are Lt. Anderson, a vampire with a centuries old reason to hate werewolves, and Detective Scarber, a werewolf.

So half the plot centers on each of them learning to trust and work effectively with each other. The other half is the telling of good solid police work resulting in a satisfactory conclusion to a truly baffling case. Lots of plot twists and convincing characters. Oh, yeah, and she drives a fast car and thinks 100 mph is a comfortable speed on the freeway.

A great read for justice geeks. I found that it grabbed my interest and didn't let go until I finished it.

I missed this one on Goodreads giveaways but caught up with it on sale.

Krystyna says

Trust is everything

A really good start to a new series. Has vibes of R. I. P Department but in a more acceptable way. That is it is more closely aligned to the human way that a police department works. Good plot and a great mix of using science, technology and gut feeling. Whilst the characters, although Immortal, have all the human frailties. When she is told that she will be heading up a new team (Undead Team) she didn't expect her one and only partner would be a Wolf. Vampire and Wolf was never a good mix as the two were sworn enemies and she herself had witnesses the brutal death of her family at their hands. However all this had to be pushed to one side as they get called to one case after another of attacks. But they start to link them together due to DNA and the odour left behind. Can they bring in the culprit whose attacks seem to span decades? Why isn't the attacker's DNA on file? What kind of Immortal is the attacker? Most of all can they work together when it counts the most?

A. Rick says

Solid detective mystery.

The author has built an interesting world with laws that fit what a fearful society would construct after learning about the 'undead'. The police work was detailed and showed an in-depth level of research but not so much as to bog down the story.

The interaction between Lacey and Colton displayed their disparate natures and how they were able to use each other's abilities to still work as a team despite those differences and a bad history.

This is the first in a series, so it was expected that there would be some 'construction' and the author did this very well. The author also did a very good job of humanizing the characters, but I hope the following offerings have more 'undead' action.

Shawn says

Vampires and werewolves oh my...

What do you get when you partner a vampire who hates werewolves and a werewolf who isn't keen on vampires together on a police force?? A lot of ! This book was a fun read I liked the story line . The snarky attitudes that both Colton and Lacey had towards to each other was at times cringe worthy and others quite humorous. They are both keeping information from each other, th eye must overcome this and other obstinate a Coles to break the case they are working on. Was a good read, definitely recommend

Steve Caldwell says

Imagine a world about 100 years in the future, where cars drive themselves, technology is more advanced, but all in all, its recognizable. Oh, did I forget to mention that supernatural cratures, like Werewolves and

Vampires, among a host of others, are now out in the open and are accepted members of society? That's where the story begins in Dallas, as vampire detective Lacey Anderson is put in charge of the newly formed Undead Squad, formed to deal with strictly supernatural crimes. She is partnered with Colton Scarber, an irracible Werewolf. This is an uneasy partnership, since Vamps and Wolves don't really care for each other generally. Also, Colton's pack was involved with an earlier incident in Lacey's life that has left her traumatized still. They immediately pick up a case where a woman has been assaulted by a supernatural. So begins a wild ride of a book that reads like a hard boiled police procedural, only with Supernatural creatures! The search for the culprit takes all their skills and knowledge, including something Lacey saw 500 years ago, and leads to a thrilling conclusion! Along the way, Lacey and Colton have to face their shared past and find a way to deal with it while working as an effective team. All in all, extremely well done!

The plotting and pacing were excellent, and you can tell the author has either researched extensively or has a Law enforcement background. Having such long lived characters also allows for interesting flashbacks, and the settings, from renaissance era Greece to future era Dallas are well drawn out. I really enjoyed the byplay between the two main characters as they each learned each others strengths and how they complimented their own.

As far as narration, Sallie Downing did a fine job bringing the various characters to life. She gave them each their won voice, even minor characters, and her pacing was excellent.

I give this book my highest recommendation, and it should please both urban fantasy fans and even fans of stuff like the Harry Bosch books.

I was voluntarily given a copy of this book by the Author, narrator or publisher free of charge through Audiobookboom.

BookJunkie777 says

Audiobook review: Interesting story of a new paranormal squad of two detectives investigating paranormal related crimes. The characters and storyline are well developed. The detail of police procedure relays the author's commitment to police procedure research and partnership bonding. Overall I enjoyed the story and the mystery unraveling was well done. I received a free copy of this audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review.

Garrison Kelly says

In a future where undead creatures pass as everyday citizens, vampire detective Lacey Anderson has been assigned a new partner in the form of werewolf Colton Scarber. Vampires and werewolves are natural enemies, but Lacey takes it to an even more personal level seeing as how her family was murdered by a pack of werewolves when she was little. Lacey and Colton have a hard time seeing eye-to-eye, but they must learn to coexist when a string of assaults and rapes plague their hometown of Dallas, Texas. The two detectives agree that these crimes were committed by the same suspect, but proving it to a judge and jury is an uphill task where cooperation is paramount to success.

Markie Madden's extensive knowledge of the law and police procedure is so evident in this novel that it resembles an episode of Law & Order, NCIS, The Shield, or any other cop drama on TV. Lacey Anderson has a striking resemblance to Olivia Benson from Law & Order: SVU when it comes to her professionalism and the tender way she deals with rape victims. Colton Scarber, on the other hand, resembles Vic Mackey from The Shield with his passionate outbursts and triggered anger, though Colton has slightly more respect for the law than Mackey ever could (even if procedure can be a pain in the ass sometimes). The DNA testing,

the interview questions, interrogation tactics, and even something as basic as paperwork have all the intricate details of a well-crafted crime drama. My only question is, when will Dick Wolf or Donald Bellasario order a TV series for this novel?

Everything flowed so naturally in this book that Colton's behavior in the early portions of the story took me off balance. Werewolves, by their very nature, have rage issues which prompted laws that required their race to take anger management classes. That part is understandable. What I don't understand is why Colton has to whine and complain about doing menial tasks like internet searches, paperwork, or witness interviews. It's not like Lacey is asking him to join a Bosnian death squad and slay children; she's asking him to do basic police chores that will only take a small amount of time to complete. At this point, I chalk it up to immaturity rather than rage. But since this behavior doesn't last long and more of Colton's professional nature starts to reveal itself near the middle of the novel, this isn't a huge knock against the book and won't devalue the passing grade it receives. This flaw is just worth noting, that's all.

As far as other details go, there are a few minor grammatical errors (she spells "did" without an I at one point), but not enough to take the reader out of the story. The calm way the police psychologist Marcell was portrayed is every bit as convincing as the police themselves. Lacey's trauma of losing her family to a werewolf attack is also realistic since she has pent up anger and night terrors to go with it. Her fear of heights can be vicariously felt through the reader, especially near the end when it matters the most. Genre-wise, the police drama elements are more prominent than the paranormal ones. I would have liked to see the racism elements played up a little more, but that probably won't happen since undead creatures are everyday citizens. Yep, that's all I have to say for now.

All in all, there's not a whole lot to complain about when it comes to Fang and Claw. If you do have any complaints, they'll be quickly usurped by the intense and compelling story that's unfolding before your very eyes. I highly recommend this book to anybody who loves both the paranormal and crime genres. The reading is easy on the eyes and will bring you to the edge of your seat as the story draws to its conclusion. A passing grade will go to a fine piece of literature like Fang and Claw! Congratulations on knocking it out of the park, Markie!

Nicole Mole says

It took a bit to get into the book but once I did it was great!

Lorraine says

I loved this book, it grabbed me on the first page and didn't let go 'til the end.

Set in a future where supernatural beings have been accepted in the human world, a unit of Immortals investigate crimes committed by other Immortal and undead creatures.

The authors portrayal of the world and the law enforcement of the future is well-written, descriptive, and entirely believable.

The characters are complex and dynamic. Lacey and Colton, the two main characters, have a complicated and tense relationship, which adds to their opposing personalities.

The story flows well and throws up a few surprises for the investigating pair, and for the reader.

Montzalee Wittmann says

Fang and Claw

The Undead Unit, Book 1

By: Markie Madden

Narrated by: Sallie Downing

A vamp and a werewolf get assigned to a new unit to deal with the supernatural or undead population.

Neither want to work with each other. The book follows their cases, their relationship, and career. It is very interesting and there is NO romance between them. Just a good story.

The narration was good.

Lavern Winters says

I received an ARC of "Fang and Claw" to read and review. It is scheduled for release this weekend and is available for preorder on Amazon. Fang & Claw Markie Madden cover

"Fang and Claw" is a paranormal suspense crime novel taking place over a hundred years in the future.

Immortals have merged into mainstream society, living and working openly among humans. There still some prejudices among humans and supernaturals alike, but society is becoming more accepting of inter-species associations.

In this story Lacey, a vampire, and Colton, a werewolf, are partnered for heading up a new unit in the Dallas Police Department that specializes in crimes involving immortals. They are given a series of dissimilar crimes that both feel are related. Their investigation to link the crimes and find the perpetrator leads them to both personal and professional discoveries.

There is a lot of tension in interpersonal relationships plus police action. It is apparent the author has done a great deal research. Her depiction of law enforcement protocols is realistic. She has a good grasp of how communication technologies may evolve and the way they are utilized in this book for police investigations are believable.

The story is well written, though I did find a few typographical errors in the ARC. None of those errors made the reading difficult and were easy to interpret the meaning.

I enjoyed the book and recommend it to readers who enjoy paranormal or crime novels. I give it a five star rating for the excellent writing plus good character and plot development.
