



# The Abused Werewolf Rescue Group

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## **The Abused Werewolf Rescue Group** Catherine Jinks

When Tobias Richard Vandeveld wakes up in hospital with no memory of the night before, his horrified mother tells him that he was found unconscious. At Featherdale wildlife Park. In a dingo pen.

He assumes that his two rambunctious best friends are somehow responsible, until he discovers that they're just as freaked out as he is. Then the mysterious Reuben turns up, claiming that Toby has a rare and dangerous 'condition'. Next thing he knows, Toby finds himself involved with a strange bunch of sickly insomniacs who seem convinced that he needs their help.

It's not until he's kidnapped and imprisoned that he starts to believe them - and to understand what being a paranormal monster really means.

## **The Abused Werewolf Rescue Group Details**

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Author : Catherine Jinks

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## **From Reader Review The Abused Werewolf Rescue Group for online ebook**

### **Sana says**

DNF at page 132

I really am not all that compelled to read this. Why was I forcing myself to turn those boring pages???

Toby was our dumb and manipulative 13 year old protagonist. He literally did whatever Fergus told him to do and could not think for himself. Fergus was super annoying, always trying to do things that would get them in trouble.

The werewolf subject was just meh. It didn't capture my attention. It was so bleh. I can't even describe my feelings using proper words. XD

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### **Beckiezra says**

This probably deserves 3.5 stars, I enjoyed it more than average but it didn't wow me. I'm not very consistent in my star ratings...

I read this rather quickly for me and I enjoyed the idea but I wasn't thrilled with the main character and just before the actual excitement started half way or more through the book I found myself wondering what the point of this was. I didn't want to follow the adventures of a 13 year old in pulling pranks and making messes, I wanted to know about werewolves!

After the kidnapping things got more exciting and Toby changed as a person and was less...whatever he was that didn't really grab me. And since I didn't particularly care for his personal life much of the book was kind of blah but well written.

I wanted to know more about Reuben, I wanted to know more about being a werewolf. But I guess they don't really know what it's like, it seems to cause amnesia. Apparently it's better than being a vampire though. I caught on that the people must be from another book before too long but this wasn't marked as part of a series or anything and I don't think I'd know any more about things if I'd read it first. If Reuben's rescue from the tank is included in the other book that might make it worth picking up. If I have to read 200 pages of a whiny vampire girl complaining about how sick she is it might not be worth it. Nina didn't seem particularly like a whiner, but Toby did say he didn't interact with vampires since they complain a lot.

Not bad but it wasn't that great either. I never got attached to the characters, I would have liked more about being a werewolf, and the first half was starting to drag and seem pointless to furthering the werewolf plot.

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### **Amy L. Campbell says**

Note: Review copy provided by Netgalley.

I was hoping for something that took itself a little less seriously, instead I got a fairly typical coming of age story with vampires and werewolves tacked on and little extra added melodrama. It even came completely with a Jerry Springer-like Afterthoughts tacked on. Toby isn't a particularly interesting character and he sometimes comes off sounding more like a 13-year-old girl than a 13-year-old boy, maybe the 13-year-old inner monologues all sound the same: whiny and self-entitled. He is obviously an inventive and resourceful kid, but the only scenes we see this side of him is during pranks and when he "saves the day," but even then there's a back up squad and so his resourcefulness isn't even necessary in the end.

Oh, and once again, all of the adults are framed more or less as bumbling idiots. I'm not sure I really appreciate this trend in teen literature. It's one thing to present adults as realistic people who make mistakes, but *every* adult was reduced to the level of Provider of Things. This was especially noticeable when Toby was at the doctor's office after waking up from his wild night that he doesn't remember. Instead of being concerned about his own health and listening to what the doctor was saying because he didn't see how epileptic fits were "relevant" to his being in the hospital. Are teenagers these days really so cavalier about what they think they know that they would stop listening to a medical professional try to explain what happened to them?

The pacing in this novel was pretty good and the action oriented scenes weren't bad. But most of them were caused by Toby's blundering and inability to follow the rules. In the end I just wasn't impressed. If the goal was to present Toby as a regular kid who had a condition, I think I would have preferred to see him more established in the group and to see how he coped with his condition rather than watching the metaphorical bomb drop and watching as Toby and his mother try to deal with and then clean up the damage.

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## **Crowinator says**

I love Catherine Jinks because she created Pagan, one of the best characters ever and the reason I learned that I can actually enjoy historical fiction when it's well-written, and I've mostly enjoyed her *Genius* series, too, but I found this book ultimately frustrating. I thought her new paranormal series was supposed to be an unusual take on the common YA vampire/werewolf myths and at least a little funny, but I found most of the characters annoying (especially the ones that recur from the first book, which is the majority of them), and only Toby and his mother get any personality or character development (though I will say, that I did like Toby and his mom a great deal, and I liked the role his mom played in the story).

The narrative was overly talky and repetitive (I can't even count the times Toby says things like, "I should tell you, by the way . . ." and "I'd better explain . . ." and "Before I go any farther, I should mention . . ." and so on). Little happens in the story for the first 200 pages except that two strangers stalk Toby, telling him he's a werewolf and he should allow them to lock him up on the full moon, which eventually wins him over for reasons I can't fathom. (Given that NOBODY turns into a werewolf in the book until the very end, and then when Toby finally becomes one, it's for about three sentences, off-page, no less, I can't figure out why he lets go of his skepticism as early as he does, though at least he does hold on to it for long enough to not look *totally* stupid.) Like Toby's mother, I would want some more proof that my son is a dangerous werewolf than having a pair of complete strangers sit in my living room and tell me about it. Like, *actual* proof. And given that they never present any proof, I would do as she did, and kick them out and threaten to call the police.

Basically, Toby's mom is the most awesome part of this book. She is the only character in the book who reacts like a real person would in the situations she finds herself and her son in, without appearing dense, negligent, or willfully blind. She is actually quite a great mom character for a supernatural book, supportive and realistic, and I wish we'd see more parents like her in this genre.

Enough action happens in the latter half that the book should be exciting, and it definitely had its moments, like when Toby's love for Jackass-style stunts and delinquent pranks helped him escape his captors. Some of that stuff was ingenious and true to the character. But mostly, I found myself skimming over whenever characters would talk to each other, and that's never good, especially since many scenes are dialogue-heavy. One character in particular had the most atrociously written dialect, and the others were all blank and kind of depressing. They over-processed everything, which could have been a funny send-up of group meetings but was actually kind of boring to read. The most interesting idea -- the underground werewolf fighting ring -- never goes anywhere, and that was a major disappointment, because it would have added some actual werewolf action to this novel. Mostly, other characters hint darkly about their past fighting in the werewolf ring (without going in to too much detail) to explain why they're so angsty, but the tension kind of fizzles when you realize that Toby is never going to experience this for even a second. The latter half of the book is actually him trying to stop the others from taking revenge on their red-neck captors.

Maybe I would have liked this more if I'd read the companion novel first, or maybe my sense of humor is impaired (always possible!), but this didn't live up to my expectations as a smart parody of teen paranormal lit or even as a standard action-filled genre offering.

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### **Christine Edison says**

Toby has accepted that on Monday night, he somehow got out of his house, lost all of his clothes and wound up in the dingo pen of a local nature reserve. Did he have an epileptic attack, as his doctor thinks? Did he do drugs, as his mother suspects? Or is he becoming a werewolf, as his new acquaintance Reuben claims? Toby's friends Fergus and Amin want to trick Reuben and his support team, but Toby suspects Reuben's right. He just doesn't want to believe it.

This book frustrates me, perhaps because these thirteen-year-old boys spend a LOT of time playing tricks on people who are trying to help them, and after a while that gets old. Toby seems smart sometimes, but he's clueless figuring himself out, so he feels like a very young character. The plot meanders a bit, and it seems like it climaxes halfway through and then disintegrates after that.

I haven't read the sequel to this book, *The Reformed Vampire Support Group*, but I like the idea of a werewolf support group (themselves with a lot of flaws) trying to prevent disaster.

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### **Cristy says**

THE ABUSED WEREWOLF RESCUE GROUP is the second read of its kind for me and I have to admit it was a notch (even if only a small notch, a notch none the less) above its predecessor, THE REFORMED VAMPIRE SUPPORT GROUP. Whether the mild betterment is truly due to an improvement in writing or has more to do with the fact that the werewolves were just far less depressing than the weak and sorely pathetic vampires, is a tough call to make.

Most of the original cast returns as secondary characters along with some new ones including a new protagonist; this time (if not obvious from the title) the lead role revolves around a young werewolf instead of a vampire. And so we meet Toby, a 13 year old Australian who is forced to come to terms with the fact that werewolves are real and he happens to be one. Not that he accepts this easily or without overwhelming amounts of evidence, but it hard to deny his... ahem, change in species once bad guys kidnap him for the sole purpose of caging and forcing him to fight other werewolves to the death. And thus the rescue antics begin.

Although not a huge improvement over the first book, the intended humor is much better received coming from the mischievous and newly “wered” teen boy’s POV, him having far less baggage then Nina, the gothy half-starved 52 year old teen vamp girl of book 1. But to be perfectly honest, I think my enjoyment of this read was greatly influenced by the novelty within the format of which I “read” it. You see, I actually read (in paperback) REFORMED VAMPIRE SUPORT GROUP and I audio booked this one and the added novelty of the narrator’s Australian accent just might have played a role in holding my attention. All in all it’s a decent little quirky paranormal series that is really geared for the teen and tween crowd, but if you’re over the age of 17 and are still considering giving this book a look, I highly recommend checking it out in audio format which is well narrated by Grant Cartwright. (3.5 stars)

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## **Vinaya says**

They say one picture is worth a thousand words. So here's one picture...

And now, for the thousand words...

In a fight between the Abused Werewolves and the Reformed Vampires, the werewolves would get their asses handed to them. On a plate. With gravy. The Abused Werewolves Rescue Group comes nowhere close to the kitschy coolness that was The Reformed Vampire Support Group. For one thing, this book reads like it's written for a much younger audience. The protagonist himself is only thirteen. Now thirteen year old boys aren't the smartest or most entertaining subjects at the best of times, and this one pretty much killed the book.

When Toby Vandavelde wakes up in a hospital with no memory of the night before, and is told that he was discovered naked in the dingo pen of a national park, he knows things are never going to be the same again. Soon he's caught up in a whirl of madness that includes werewolves, kidnappers and vampires as well as a hysterical mother and crazy friends.

Let's deal with the friends first. I don't know any 13 year old boys, so I'm not sure if they really are this stupid, or Jinks exaggerates. If it turns out that teenage boys really are dumb as a doorpost, dear god, I'm going to hand my kid over to some Nazi-trained foster mother until he reaches the Age of Reason. I cannot begin to tell you how annoying Toby's best friend Fergus is. This kid got to me like nails on a chalkboard; I understand that overly precocious kids are sometimes meant to be adorable. This one certainly wasn't and I can't figure Jinks' purpose in putting him there. It certainly doesn't bode well for a book when I spend about half of it wanted to bash one, if not ALL, of the main characters' heads in!

Toby dismisses his other friend Amin as being a quiet boy willing to accede to Fergus' stronger will, but

Toby himself is no different. He's a complete and total doormat who agrees with every crack-brained scheme his friend proposes, even when they make him hugely uncomfortable. Here's the difference between Toby and Nina - Nina is a sickly, weak vampire with a debilitating disease that makes her life hell. Yet she goes out into the Outback to kick ass and investigate mysteries and rescue werewolves. Toby is a strong, sensorily-gifted werewolf with no problems other than a need to be shut away during the night of the full moon. Yet he is the bigger victim. The whiner. The doormat. Is this the contrast that Jinks meant to draw? If so, I compliment her for her cleverness, but it did not make me like the book any better. Added to the fact that if this is a book meant for Age 12 upwards, the allegory is too subtle for the target audience.

Almost all of the main characters in this book are batshit crazy and annoyingly hysterical. Not to mention unnecessarily aggressive. In fact, the only character I saw displaying any amount of maturity (apart from the vampires) was Reuben. I really did like Reuben in RVSG, and now I like him even more because he didn't make me want to shoot him with one of the guns Toby keeps whining about in the book. Don't even get me started on Danny; I'm so glad he turned into a zombie, I only wish he'd done it sooner. Toby, of course, did his amazingly convincing impression of a doormat. And Sergio added himself to the list of unmemorable, irritating supporting cast.

This book was paced weirdly. With RVSG, I found that the pacing was slow overall, but not annoyingly so. With AWRG, there were weird jumps in the pace. There were large tracts of time, especially in the first two hundred pages, when absolutely nothing happened. Then too much stuff happened at once, and then Toby sort of sunk into a stupor, from which he was shaken by more stuff happening too fast.

It appeared to me that it wasn't Toby's age that made him such a wishy-washy character; yeah, yeah, cusp of adulthood, adolescent uncertainty, yadda yadda, I know the spiel. But it seemed to me that it wasn't hormones that were making Toby such a miserable character; it was the complete lack of a spine. And, of course, I just wanted to bitch-slap his mother, despite the fact that she was acting like a perfectly reasonable mother confronted by circumstances beyond her grasp. But still. Be quiet already and just *listen*, woman!

Also can I say how weird it was that this was a book about werewolves, but not ONE of them ever turned into one in the course of the book? All of the transformation happens off-page, either before the book begins, or as a footnote in the concluding chapter. How, exactly, did Toby become convinced that he was, in fact, a werewolf?!

All in all, this book is a disappointment. RVSG was a way, way better book; so much so that I'm sentimentally contemplating the idea of going back and raising its rating by a star for being so much more funny and interesting than this one. I think the next one's about zombies, and I hope Jinks is planning to redeem herself, or I'm going to be Very Disappointed.

Thankfully, I didn't have to pay money to read this, since it was supplied to me by the publishers via Net Galley. No considerations, monetary or otherwise, affected this review.

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## **Melissa Elgersma says**

We meet Toby the day he woke up naked and alone in a dingo pen at the local nature park. He is in the hospital with no memory of what happened. The doctors are talking epilepsy when a mysterious note shows up on his pillow that offers an explanation. The Abused Werewolf Rescue Group is the follow up book to Catherine Jinks's Reformed Vampire Support Group. After leaving the hospital, Toby gets two visitors,

Father Ramon and Reuben, who claim to know what Toby really is.

While Toby has a hard time believing he's the werewolf Father Ramon and Reuben claim he is, there are those who would love nothing more than force Toby into werewolf fighting (think super intense dog-fighting). Although Reuben tries to protect him, Toby is kidnapped and taken to the outback (the book is set in Australia). While in captivity, Toby meets Sergio, another werewolf, and the two try to escape. When Reuben's friend and fellow werewolf Danny, an unusual group of insomniacs and Reuben himself get involved in the rescue the action really kicks into overdrive.

Although it is a little slow to start, the action quickly moves to go-go-go pace. The second half of the book kept me on the edge of my seat, scrambling along with Toby and Reuben to craft their escape. From the time the time Toby gets kidnapped, the book reads like an action movie. Car chases, explosions, daring escapes, shoot-em-up scenes-this book had it all! Characters from The Reformed Vampire Support Group make an appearance too. And did I mention the zombie?

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### **Melanie says**

3.5 stars.

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### **Nicole Edwards says**

This was pretty entertaining. I liked the humor. So much humor. Love that. And it was a fresh take on the whole werewolf thing: Kids being kidnapped for blood sport? Interesting. Oh, and it was set in Australia. So that was fun.

Here's the thing: This book was written for boys. I bet pre-teen boys would love it with all the idiotic boy-things these kids do and the main character being a 13-year-old boy. Seriously, teenage and pre-teen boys are gonna love it!

It just wasn't for me so much. While I loved the humor I like a little bit of romance, older characters and a bit more maturity. Like, YA-style maturity, not Adult-style maturity, just so you know. So I just wasn't the right audience for this book. Because it was well-written. It was entertaining. It was fresh. It was funny. I just wanted a little more.

Sexual Content: None

Language: Moderate

Violence: Moderate

Drugs/Alcohol: Mild

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### **Paula Weston says**

These days, much of the popular paranormal fiction on YA shelves seems to be almost exclusively targeted at female audiences.



Teenage boys, however, can be thankful Catherine Jinks hasn't forgotten them, following up her offbeat novel *The Reformed Vampire Support Group (TRVSG)* with another cool offering, *The Abused Werewolf Rescue Group*.

While the TRVSG was told from vampire Nina's perspective, her latest novel is told through the eyes of 13-year-old Toby, who learns the hard way that his onset of hormones has also brought on the onset of latent lycanthropy.

Jinks turned vampire mythology on its head (her Sydney-based blood suckers are sickly and vulnerable, and not remotely interested in epic romances), and while she doesn't take quite as many liberties with her werewolves, she still stays firmly grounded in realism.

Readers of TRVSG will be pleased to see the return of Rueben, the werewolf inadvertently rescued by the vampires (while they were timidly trying to track down a 'slayer').

It's Rueben who tries to convince Toby he's a werewolf (after the teenager is found dazed in a dingo pen after the last full moon). Not surprisingly, Toby thinks Rueben and his friends – the motely crew from TRVSG – are a bunch of weirdos, and it's not until he's kidnapped by men with more sinister motives that he begins to change his mind.

The story treads some familiar territory of TRVSG, but from a more masculine perspective (and, of course, is focused on werewolves, not vampires).

This time around the tone is darker and the story more violent (hard not to be when the plot centres on young werewolves being imprisoned and essentially turned into cage fighting pit bulls), but it's never overdone, and there is still plenty of humour to stave off any real menace.

The pace is also faster this time around, with the action kicking in almost immediately, and then ramping up once Toby is kidnapped – and starts to realise Rueben wasn't a complete nut job.

Again Jinks keeps her story unashamedly Australian, which for me was a big part of the book's appeal.

And no, I'm not a teenage boy, but I still enjoyed it. I hope Jinks continues on with this group of characters, as there's certainly plenty more she can do with them.

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## **Norma says**

This is the second book in a series. I did not get the chance to read the first book. There were a few places where they referenced things that happened. But it wasn't necessary to read the first one in order to understand this book.

First off, I thought that the characters were pretty weak. Toby was supposed to be thirteen, but for much of the book he was characterized as a much younger boy. His mom might as well just been holding her hands over her ears shouting "la la la I can't hear you" for as much as she was listening to what people were trying to tell her.

The first portion of the book was extremely slow moving. During that time, I kept putting it down and really

didn't want to pick it back up.

I had heard such great things about the first book in the series. So I had some high hopes for this one. Unfortunately it fell flat.

In conjunction with the Wakela's World Disclosure Statement, I received a product in order to enable my review. No other compensation has been received. My statements are an honest account of my experience with the brand. The opinions stated here are mine alone.

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## **Lindsay says**

Catherine Jinks brings back the rag tag group of vampires from The Reformed Vampire Support Group in this companion novel focusing on the werewolves rescued by the group.

When 13-year-old Tobias wakes up in a dingo pen with no memory of how he got there, he and his doctors are at a loss. When the mysterious Father Ramon contacts Toby and his mother he tells Toby that he is a werewolf.

Toby soon faces the same fate as Reuben in the previous novel and is kidnapped and held for pit fighting. Will he be saved?

This novel can stand on its own with no knowledge of the previous novel. My only concern is the infiltration of a new zombie storyline at the end.

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## **Kate says**

I read this ARC via NetGalley.

Toby recently blacked out and woke up in a dingo pen. While the doctors try to determine whether or not Toby has epilepsy and his mother interrogates him about drug use, Toby receives a letter from a priest who has a totally different theory about Toby's blackout: he's a werewolf.

At first Toby and his mother think the priest and his friend Reuben (who also claims to be a werewolf) are crazy. Toby and his two friends go out of their way to capture Reuben's crazy theory on film, but during all the pranks Toby begins to think he might actually be a werewolf. He meets a group of people who claim to rescue werewolves, such as Reuben, who had been kept locked up as part of the lucrative world of werewolf fighting. Toby is still skeptical, until a couple of fake police officers kidnap him and lock him in a cell too.

This began as a funny tale of a teenage boy trying to deal with being a werewolf, then turned into a thriller as Toby tries to escape. I liked the lighter tone of the beginning and wished it had continued throughout, but unfortunately the werewolves are all pretty aggressive and for the last half of the novel it seemed like they were all just running around and yelling at each other. I haven't read the companion novel, The Reformed Vampire Support Group, but I don't think it's necessary to read this book, as the werewolves are the focus and the vampires are mostly thrown in toward the end. The cover, also, seems too dark for this type of book,

because even amidst all the shouting it didn't feel as serious and dark as this cover suggests. However, I liked Toby, and Reuben (then again, I do have a soft spot for werewolves).

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**Jon says**

Nope. Not for me

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