



Inhuman

Eileen Wilks

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Certain people in Midland, Texas, are dying. All of them were Gifted, and all of them have been drained of their blood. Kai is a reluctant telepath with a skewed Gift—she sees thoughts instead of experiencing them. So, unlike other Midlanders, she can intuit that they have a “Guardian.” She also knows that the Guardian Nathan isn’t human. His true nature hasn’t been divined. Neither has hers. But when another one of the Gifted is found dead, Kai herself becomes a suspect. And only Nathan can save her.

Previously published in *On the Prowl*.

Inhuman Details

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From Reader Review Inhuman for online ebook

Katie Michaels says

This is the second novella I've read in this series, and I really like the fact that both seem to stand alone very well, yet tie in to the larger series. Just as with the first one, Lily and Rune don't make any appearances. It focuses on an entirely new couple, Kai and Nathan, who I understand will be featured in the fourth novel, Night Season. I'm already excited.

Kai is a telepath, but not one like any other she knows of. She can see thoughts and emotions as colors and shapes. And her gift is stronger than it's ever been in a time where many fear, and even hate, those who are more than human. Kai is nursing a serious crush on her friend Nathan, who is a police detective and a being from another realm. She doesn't know what he is, but she knows how much he means to her, and she doesn't want to lose him.

I don't want to spoil too many details, as the story is short. But I really enjoyed the tension between these two. Kai wants to much to go beyond friendship with Nathan, and it is so gratifying when we finally get in his head and realize it goes both ways. I liked the way his truths unfolded as he revealed them to Kai. And I am very curious to see where their story will go next.

The World of the Lupi novellas definitely have a more PNR vibe than the UF we get from the novels in the series. I wish a little more of the romance would bleed over, because I like it a lot.

Rating: B/B+

Francais Parker says

World Building: B+ (because I think they could have done more. I expect there will be tons more world building in the full-length novels)

Suspense: B+

Girl Power: B

Guy Hero: A-

Feels: B+

Love Interest: B+

For you clean-readers: this book DOES have mature content. Some self-editing/scene-skipping may be needed to read this one.

Mike says

Short story set in the middle of a series, a standalone work that reveals an utterly fascinating paranormal universe

An excellent short story, providing a good balance of interesting characters, a complex but nicely revealed

supernatural setting, and focus on the relationship (as well as background story). It's the first I've read in the series, and this short story certainly has my attention.

There was an important (but in overall experience, very minor) issue for me. The story raises the question "when is summary justice (i.e. an immediate death sentence) justified - and required - versus when is it acceptable to forgive/ignore past atrocities (e.g. multiple murders)." The resolution is arbitrarily justified in a sentence or two, treating something that appears to be a central focus for a couple of characters almost as a throw away plot device. (Perhaps this theme of when can a "hunter" exercise discretion in carrying out justice as a "deputized" judge/jury/executioner is explored in the series - I've only read the short, interlude story.)

Overall, a solid, entrancing 4.5 stars for me.

D.B. Reynolds says

This short story is a good set-up for what I understand will be a new series by Eileen Wilks. Kai and Nathan are good characters, and the story leaves us wanting more.

Carolyn F. says

I read this previously in the anthology On the Prowl

I really liked the story, sort of a forbidden romance that inexplicably grew. I still remember most of the story.

Jilly says

Another half book in the series that is about some random people who have nothing to do with the story, but will probably be crucial in later books. Also, they are cute and their romance is all awwwww...

So romantic!

See? I can be all squishy and sentimental.

M says

Would help to know more about world. Library has only one of the series.

WARNING - ENTIRE PLOT SUMMARY AHEAD (used for me to keep track of series events)
REALLY - DON'T READ THIS; IT SUMMARIZES BOOK.

wild cat thing killing those with magic. Is a chameleon, takes Kai's form. Nathan is deputy, saves Kai from

arrest.

Nathan is Hellhound, has been in human form hundreds of years; can't easily return to Faerie. Finally accepts it's okay to love Kai.

Kai is similar to "binder" which almost has the Winter Queen kill her when she arrives to help. Nathan called hound master to take wild cat thing back to Faerie; he says he's going to kill Kai. N calls Queen to help, she wants to kill Kai as well, but reads her life and decides she's okay.

Queen is sending them on off-world quests.

Cathy (cathepsut) says

Read in 2011 as part of the anthology *On the Prowl*. Review to be found there.

? Irena ? says

Do not read that blurb! It tells you about the things that happen some two thirds into the story. I spent most of it waiting for the damn thing to happen. Blurb writers, here's a thought - you don't have to kill all the suspense in the story! Some of us like not knowing what will happen near the end.

Anyway, this novella takes place five months or so after *Blood Lines*. Since the magic wave hit everything, the Gifted ones got a boost and those with latent powers found themselves Gifted.

People being wonderful as expected, there's a lot of 'thou shall not suffer a witch to live' in the part of the world where *Inhuman* takes place (I can only imagine what it would be like elsewhere).

Someone is killing the Gifted and two wonderful characters are in the middle of it. I like the build-up of their connection.

I liked the resolution. It's not clean-cut as far as Kai's life goes but it's still good. (view spoiler)

edge of bubble says

This novella is the intro to the prologue of the next book. Hmm that sounds kinky...

Anyways, here we meet Kai and Nathan and witness the turn of their friendship into love. While doing that we learn a little bit of what's going on in the rural areas after the turn and the Sidhe.

It was well written and nice read.

Lara says

I enjoyed it, although I'm troubled by the lack of information that a lot of people have in this world. Considering that there are lupi and trolls and Gifts, people who learn about additional Otherness seem to be sorely lacking in knowledge of these possibilities. Not having some inkling about what a hellhound is? Not knowing about the sidhe? Does no one read fantasy in this world? Has no one gone to see a movie with fantastic elements in it?

Trix says

[Her neighbour, Nathan, is a hellhound, come from the realm of Fairies to track down a sorcerer dealing with death magic and who got stuck on Earth when the magic started ebbing away. The death of a couple of Gifted has brought them closer and will spur Nathan into protective mode when it becomes apparent

E. says

I'd forgotten that this was one of the stories in the anthology "On the Prowl". Great twists on traditional ideas about the natures of these two beings. I love the gradually unfolding mystery that accompanies the tale of two (and eventually a third) quintessentially unlovable creatures finding a safe haven. A great side story to the world of the Lupi, but as always, I wish there was more!

(library book)

Deni Ann Gereighty says

Wonderful book but much too short! Another novel or 2 just on this theme/characters would be good. I have read most of the 14 books in the series and this is 3.5 now it is called. For me, focusing on just these 2 characters would be fine for 1 or 2 more books to finish their story set up. Enough interest in the world created would bring me to test the other novels in series. I dislike that when I read the series years ago this novel was not written or not linked on Amazon. It is a very good book, never want to set it down-the kind you think about later or even dream about, a world you delight in revisiting and sharing. This novel does not deal with the lupi per say, but is set in their world, one of many realms after the Turn and after the Winds blew creatures across the realms. The fact that the main character is part Native American and this is an important part of her life is always welcome, as it is not gratuitous nor trivialized. Wicca is a religion that links many of the characters but is a more minor part of the world. Spoiler--I love the Wild Hunt being involved, again in a minor way but to link so many lovely things in a perfectly plausible way and not on a derogatory way is refreshing!

Louisa says

Really great book, I really enjoyed reading about these characters, and if I'm remembering the synopsis's of later books, we're going to see them again, yeah!
