



Winter of the Wolf

Cherise Sinclair

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Librarian's note: Alternate cover edition of ASIN B007OARXEA.

After years in foster care, Breanne Gallagher has the stable life she's always wanted, living with her foster-sister, working as a chef, enjoying her comfortable routines. Then one devastating night, a hellish creature invades her apartment and shatters her fragile existence. Shifting between monster and man, it slaughters her foster sister and assaults Bree. Alone, wounded, her beloved home tainted by gruesome memories, Bree flees to a tiny wilderness town, following her only clue to her past.

Shapeshifting warriors, Zeb and Shay move from one pack to another, hunting the hellhounds which prey on their kind. Assigned to Cold Creek, they take over management of a decrepit fishing lodge for their "human" cover. Their first renter is a pretty human female who trembles at the sight of them—yet stands her ground. Furious at the hurt they see in her eyes, the protective nomads are drawn into helping her. Although no shapeshifter is ever attracted to a human, her scent is oddly compelling, and her ferocious determination to conquer her fears ignites longings neither loner ever expected to face.

Bree is healing, learning to shoot the biggest pistol she can find, and overcoming her fears, especially of the two deadly, disconcertingly attractive hunters. Her life is getting back on track...until she tries to save a little girl from a hellhound and discovers everything she knows about herself is false.

Winter of the Wolf Details

Date : Published January 2016 by VanScoy Publishing Group (first published March 23rd 2012)

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Author : Cherise Sinclair

Format : Kindle Edition 500 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Shapeshifters, Menage

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From Reader Review Winter of the Wolf for online ebook

Laz the Sailor says

I think this one is even better than book #1. There was more drama but less angst. Wolfpack dynamics are more confusing than closed-up cougars. In addition, I thought the PTSD was handled pretty well.

The build up took a bit longer in this story, but the sex ended up being hotter. There was one quasi-TSTL decision, but it was necessary for the story. And the intervention of the shifter-god was weird, which is why I don't usually like paranormal books. I got confused about the seasons and timing, but just rolled with it.

But the characters, challenges, and smokin' sex out-weighs all of that, so this earns a solid 4+ stars.

I'll read book 3 soon.

Happy says

3.5 I was really excited to read this book. This a great author and I thought it would be awesome to read a paranormal from her. I think I would of liked this book more if I had different expectations. This isn't a witty, quick, hot read. The first half of the book is pretty slow and depressing. She's a victim trying to find a way to heal. I felt the paranormal piece had a great magical feel to it in the beginning then it seemed to flatten out later in the book. There is quite a bit on social order of the wolves and their nemesis, this was frustrating to me but I understand why the author did this--she's setting a foundation for the series. I just wish it was done faster.

I was expecting to get to the steamy parts sooner and the reader is teased about this a lot in the first half of the book. The 2:1 theme was done well though. It was surprisingly sweet and both the guys seemed like wonderful characters. At the end, the sweetness fades a bit and gets more steamy.

Lack of good communication between her and her guys was also frustrating. She was trying to be strong, caring and independent but it just felt like to me that she was being stupid. Other than for this, I liked her. The guys have an interesting way towards the end to teach her to communicate better ;)

I found myself skimming or speed reading too much of the book. This isn't a book where I savored every word.

Laurie says

First read on Mar. 19, 2014

Re-read on March 8, 2016

I loved Winter of the Wolf just as much as I loved Hour of the Lion, the first book in the Wild Hunt Legacy series. Here we have three main characters in dire need of a home and the journey they make although heart-breaking at times, is action packed, exciting, and pretty freaking hot.

Bree was found wandering the woods as a toddler so she's never had a real family. Finally starting to find her way and make a home and career for herself, things take a tragic turn when she loses her best friend to a hellhound attack and is raped and wounded during that same attack. Not feeling safe knowing that the hellhound promises to return, Bree decides to flee to a town nearby where she was originally found. While she heals, maybe she'll find some answers to the mystery of why she was found wandering the woods all those years ago. Little did she know she would find out more about herself than she ever thought possible. It took me a bit to warm up to Bree, but she finally won me over. At first I thought she was a bit too timid, but as she healed, I soon realized she had a backbone of steel.

Zeb and Shay are two Cahirs (shapeshifting enforcers), and partners who go from area to area hunting hellhounds. Chase does this because he is oath bound to Hermes, Zeb because he's mean, scarred both inside and out, and generally wears out his welcome wherever he goes so he follows Chase around. I adored both of them. Zeb for the cute little puppy dog buried under the scary, gruff and seriously mean outer shell and Shay for his determination and his softer side.

An unbelievably warped and unstable wolf pack due to bad leadership, Chase's oath bound status, and Bree's understandable issues with men are just a few of the obstacles these three face as they find their way home, but it's a journey worth tagging along for.

Spice's Rating: 5 Scary, Gruff, and Alpha-Hot Stars

Jane Stewart says

Story and characters are good. Sex scenes are a distraction.

The sex is not BDSM like the author's other series. It's more traditional. One of the sex scenes is cute with him warming her cold feet. I recommend reading the first four sex scenes and skip the rest. There are about 14 sex scenes, most of them very long. They include two men with one woman and back door action. I liked the way the two men were best friends in a brotherly way and not a sexual way. They were sharing sex with her and not each other.

There are two rapes referred to – no details. Those are told in a sentence or two. I don't think they should bother sensitive readers.

I really liked the characters and the story. There is good adventure, fighting, personality conflicts, and developing relationships (romance as well as other friends and enemies). I liked the idea of brownies and sprites. I wish the author would have written more about them.

I wish the author mentioned in the beginning of the book that a glossary exists in the back of the book. I would have looked at it sooner had I known.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Kindle count length: 6,692 (200 - 391 pages, different estimates). Swearing language: strong, including religious swear words. Sexual language: strong. Number of sex scenes: about 14. Setting: current day Washington State. Copyright: 2012. Genre: erotic paranormal romance, menage.

Kathleen says

Erotic fantasy, with wolf-shifters, cat-shifters, bear-shifters, gods and goddesses. I wanted more scenes with the brownies, gnomes, fairies, and salamanders. Dwarves, too.

3.5 or 4 stars. I don't read ménage often, but thought this one was handled well, mainly because each of the three lead characters felt fairly real to me. An absorbing shapeshifter romance, written with some creative finesse and few typos, but far too many sex scenes interrupted the flow and frankly, got boring. Still, I liked the plot, the main characters, the secondary characters, and the setting in Cold Creek. Loved the girlfriends Bree made (Vicki, Angie, Jody, etc.) and their bonding scenes. Some gripping suspense: The villains (hellhounds) were suitably frightening, repulsive, and hard to kill, showing up in about five scenes. The lesser villains were twisted pack members who needed to die, IMO.

The book inspired a range of responses. I chuckled several times. Some lovable characters died, making me sad. I felt warmed by some happy home-making scenes (repairing the lodge, cooking, baking, throwing parties, becoming a family, etc.). There was some nail-biting going on, during the scary scenes. And during some smexy scenes I got the fan out.

Quibbles: Too much sex, including one scene right after the hellhound attacked, wounding Zeb and Shay. Hello? The glossary at the end should be up front. I really hated the term *trawsfur*, meaning to shape-shift. I felt that Callum, the bartender and priestly voice of god, had way too much power and issued far too many decrees. Also, I didn't understand the belief system. The god Herne and the Mother were very active in the book, but I had no idea who they were or how they fit in the world. What is their place in the theocracy? Top gods over all, or just the gods of shape-shifters? None of that was developed. Wanted fewer scenes with the psychos in the wolf pack (the bullying went on a bit too long), but enjoyed the way the pack began to shape up, finally.

Contents: About 14 sex scenes, including ménage and rear door action. Vicious bloody violent deaths. Some swearing, but not much. Little or no religious profanity.

If this author concentrated more on plot and less on sex, she could be great. Good flow, good dialogue, good characterization, vivid fight scenes. I will check to see if she writes standard romantic fiction.

Sophia Triad says

The second book of the series starts violently with a gory death and a rape. So, consider this a trigger warning.

“I’m Zeb Damron. Shay and I run this place together.” He loomed over her—far too much like her nightmares—and held out his hand. “You got a name?”

Breanne Gallagher (who does not understand what kind of thing attacked her) will try to run away from her old life in order to find again her inner peace. Soon, she will arrive to Cold Creek trying to discover who her

real parents are. An old photo with her as baby was taken in this small town. Unfortunately troubles will follow her as well.

Breanne is deeply traumatized and scared of men. Zeb and Shay look really scary at first, but later Breanne will understand that not all big, strong and intimidated men try to hurt her. Some actually try to protect her. Moreover Breanne will find out who she really is and she will embrace her new self.

The enemies in this book are not the humans, but the hellhounds and they are as scary as hell. The world keeps expanding and I truly love it!

Michele ~ la Smoocherina says

A new Sinclair! Yippee!

This book was good, but it had a lot of parallels to To Command and Collar. The heroine was raped then was given to the two brothers to be mentored, then they slowly brought forth her sexuality in a way that she felt safe. I'm still processing.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

This review posted on Guilty Pleasures

Recommended Read

In Winter of the Wolf, Cherise Sinclair's second in a series about a community of shape shifters in the mountains of the northwest, the reader is treated to a fun, light read about a fantasy world in which were lions, were bears and werewolves live a precarious existence among humans.

After a chaotic upbringing in various foster homes, Breanne Gallagher hates change. But change comes in a big way when her sister is killed and she is attacked by a monster that changes from man to beast and back again. She travels to Cold Creek, based on the only photo she has of her birth parents. Her landlords, Zeb and Shay, turn out to be werewolves, who serve as guardians of the other shape shifters against hellhounds—demon shape shifters that prey on humans and shifters, but prefer shifters. But hellhounds are only vulnerable in a couple of places and fighting them requires getting so close that injuries are almost inevitable.

Zeb and Shay are intrigued by their lovely little renter, and amazed by that fact as shifters aren't usually attracted to humans. It turns out, of course, that Breanne isn't human, but a shifter who has never made the shift. And the three of them have to face hellhounds—both in Cold Creek and in Breanne's home, which leads to major issues with the community.

While I'm not usually a fan of fantasy, good writing can overcome a lot and Cherise Sinclair is nothing if not a good writer! Breanne is strong, caring and brave, and her heroes are the same. There is some very light BDSM in the book, along with a ménage relationship, and lots of hot, steamy sex. I had no problems enjoying the world of Cold Creek and the story of Breanne and her men.

Aly is so frigging bored says

I liked the book and the characters, but something didn't click for me, I can't put my finger on what...

Jacqueline says

This one really hit the spot for me. This was a nice long shifter romance not just a short story to hang some sex on. The shifter world is complex and rational. The 3 main characters have complete backstories. The two men involved are fully realized and each is distinctive and different. Many times in shifter menage type books I wonder why the menage is really necessary and how there could be satisfaction for all the guys with just one woman. I wonder that really for most permanent menage books. Here though I really felt that each man loved her and got something important from the relationship. I also felt that the two men were true friends and blood brothers and they were committed to each other in a best friend but not sexual way. Which I have to admit I prefer. I'm not a fan of M/M. I want it to be all about the woman which it was here.

In addition to the romance there was plenty of interesting stuff going on with the wolf pack, the shifter politics and the evil demon hellhounds.

I really felt like all three main characters changed and grew for the better. I need to go back and read the first one now and just hope the author writes more.

BTW for people familiar with other work by this author, this is not BDSM just hot menage.

Jeanny says

I give this a very strong 2.5. Idk why but i wasn't overly invested in this coupling. I like Zeb & Shay & the story arc was a decent one but something about the h didn't click for me. I'm not sure if i'll continue this series.

Bea says

[

But here are my problems:

1. Once a month the females go into heat and have to have sex no matter what. To every man. REALLY? That's your plot devi

Becca says

It is tough for me to rate this book - and not because I didn't like it. No the reason is it was written by Cherise Sinclair and I can't decide if I'm holding her up to her own high standard, or if I'm rating the book on it's own merits. I'm aiming for the second and that's how a book should be rated. I keep thinking of chocolate - I love dark chocolate and I have my favorites. This book is like eating my second or third favorite chocolate. It's wonderful, but not my favorite.

Winter of the Wolf is a very exciting paranormal romance. The characters are strong and wonderful to read about. It has a very satisfying romance and a lovely ending. It simply felt a bit bumpier than the first book in the series, Hour of the Lion and Ms. Sinclair's other books. There were some editing misses, but not many. The plotting could have been tighter, but was still a fantastic read. So sincerely hoping I'm not being unfair to Cherise Sinclair I give this book slightly more than 4 stars and highly recommend it to anyone who likes paranormal romance or anything written by Cherise Sinclair.

Donna Bryant says

Reviewed by Donna at YouGottaRead.com

Whether you are interested in erotic BDSM, sci-fi or paranormal, Cherise Sinclair is always my top pick and number one suggestion. From her first published novel to the newest, Winter of the Wolf, she has left me entranced and unable to put her books down. Her characters have explosive energy, sex appeal, and magnetism. The plot is always gripping, leaving the reader in suspense over and over until the very end, with twists and turns even after you think you've got it figured out. Settings are beautifully vibrant and well written in Cherise's novels, and did I forget to mention the sex scenes? Well, lets just say that a cool beverage should be kept handy while reading her seductively arousing tales.

I have read all of Cherise's books (several times over) and never been disappointed, but I have to say that Winter of the Wolf was one of my favorites. Magic and mystery abound with two tortured, lonely bad boys and an equally wounded heart in our heroine. Shay, Zeb and Bree find friends, family and a home in Cold Creek, things that have been sadly lacking in their lives. Their story is erotic and exciting, at times funny, and overall heartwarming. The worst part about reading Winter of the Wolf was coming to "The End" and knowing that I have to wait before the next novel is released. Please hurry, Cherise!

Kate's Corner says

First read - 09/01/2017 - 4 *

Reread - 11/12/2017 - 4*

Still good the second time around. I really enjoy this series and the authors writing. Okay yes it can be overly sweet in some places but it works.
