



Unbinding

Eileen Wilks

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In the newest Novel of the Lupi, the human and elven worlds are both about to come under attack...

After questing through the sidhe realms with her ex-hellhound lover, Nathan, Kai Tallman Michalski has finally returned home. But she knows Nathan will eventually be called back to serve his queen—and Kai will have to decide whether to enter her majesty's service as well. Sure, the job comes with great bennies, but there's one big downside: she would have to swear absolute fealty to the Queen of Winter.

For now, though, Kai is glad to be home, and glad that Nathan completed his mission for his queen with surprising ease. But what seemed to be a quick conclusion turns out to be anything but. The two of them helped thwart the sidhe god of chaos—and he is not happy about that. He's got plans for them. Plans, too, for the sidhe who killed him some three millennia ago. Nor has he abandoned his plans for Earth, as they learn when chaos begins bursting out all over...

Unbinding Details

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From Reader Review Unbinding for online ebook

Maddy says

I wish I could say I loved this as much as I loved all the pervious books in the series, but I can't. For reason I just couldn't click with Kai and Nathan, unfortunately I got bored at some points and resorted to skimming over scenes. I miss Rule and Lily, I hope we get them in the next book.

Sophia says

The World of the Lupi series has been a wide and varied world following mostly the story of FBI Magic Unit Special Agent Lily Lu and her Lupi mate, Rule Turner. Occasionally, however, the author allows some of the other characters from the large cast to take the center stage. In this installment, the author takes a break from the series arc story line to have a reunion with recurring characters, Kai and Nathan.

Kai and Nathan first appeared in the novella, Inhuman, from the anthology, On the Prowl. Next, they are encountered in Night Season when Cullen and Cyenna adventure in the Faerie realm, and finally in the previous installment, Ritual Magic where they antagonized a god of chaos and he is now set on revenge.

The World of the Lupi has always struck me as Urban Fantasy for the analytical. If the reader loves to explore all the detail and explanation behind the supernatural world (or should I say worlds since there are many realms) the author created, then this series hits the spot. The author has the talented ability to pair detailed explanation with rich worldbuilding, sharp and exciting action and intrigue, and characters that are deftly painted so that they layer with flaws and strengths that make them feel like real people and not some perfect and perfectly talented supe who will always do the right thing and save the day.

This book, Unbinding, not only is no exception to all the above, it is also moreso than many in the series all about the details and explanations. I notice when the author brings in the Faerie realm that it tends to be like that. This story also takes a slight detour from where things are going. Lily and Rule are off scene, but all the other usual suspects are around to help Kai and Nathan take down a mad god.

The story poses internal conflicts along with the external. Kai is having what is closest described as an identity crisis. She has been living in Faery with Nathan and trying to develop her magical gift, but now back in the human realm she doubts herself, doubts her relationship with Nathan, and has no idea what is to be next for her. And she very much doubts that she can help with the problem at hand let alone survive it particularly when Nathan has closed her off and has his own hunt afoot. Nathan, like a typical male, is in protect mode and will do what he feels is best to keep Kai safe and take down the big baddie for good. As to the external conflict, as is par for the course with this author, it got pretty desperate and intense, enemies had the good guys on the run, and there were some big twists before the end came about. Just when I thought I had it all figured out, rug went out from under me and not just once.

Like with the usual stories, I love the camaraderie of the group who fight off the bad guys and was glad that they were not missing for this side trail with Kai and Nathan. Benedict and Arjenie along with Cullen and Cyenna, Isen, Nellie, Acklesford, and Ruben. Loved that hint of a secret about Cullen and I can't wait to see if I guessed that one right in further stories.

In summary, it was another cunning Urban Fantasy adventure and I highly recommend this series to other UF fans who love getting the 'hows and whys' along with all the excitement.

Shelley says

Genre Urban Fantasy

Rating 3.0

My Thoughts

Unbinding is the Eleventh novel in the World of the Lupi series. With Lily Yu and Rule Tanner off on their honeymoon, Kai Tallman Michalski and Nathan, her hellhound partner and lover, take over the spotlight. If you are a fan of this series, and have read everything, including the novellas, you know that Nathan appeared in Inhuman, and at the end of Ritual Magic where he destroyed a key artifact.

Nathan works for the Queen of Winter, and has shed his hellhound persona, and took up a more human one in order to do the Queen's work on Earth. Nathan and Kai, who is able to see thoughts by colors and patterns, and is also a mind healer, are sent back to Earth to finish off the God of chaos who is once again causing problems. Not much has changed in that area. There is always a POWER willing to set the world on fire in order to create chaos and mass hysteria and it is up to the Lupi and their allies to save the day.

Full Review Posted @ Gizmos Reviews

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

Published: October 7th 2014 by Berkley Sensation

Diane ~Firefly~ says

I definitely missed Lily and Rule, although it was good that their pack was still involved. This book dragged for me. This felt more like a book 1, trying to explain the rules of Kai and Nathan's powers that it interrupted the flow of the story.

Kai and Nathan are ok. They make a good couple and Dell the chameleon is a very interesting character with her ties to Kai. I usually love fae, but their involvement was pretty limited in this story. And while I liked these characters just fine, I'm glad the next book goes back to Lily and Rule.

Jessica says

Well, the first thing I did after finishing this was to start re-reading Inhuman World of the Lupi 3.5, which is where we first meet Kai and Nathan. Actually, now I kind of want to re-read the entire series.

I love these characters: how they're mature adults who still make mistakes and have room to grow. As a part

of that, I also love how nuanced the morality is: characters are not good or evil in a static way, but become so because of decisions they make over time. And these decisions don't come with big flashing warning signs "stop! your alignment will change from neutral good to chaotic evil with this choice!" Once his history is pulled apart and explored, the big bad in this book -- who rapes and tortures or destroys at will -- becomes sympathetic. It's not that his *actions* become sympathetic, but he as a flawed but at one time heroic being becomes deserving of compassion. And it's not that the author does a magic hand-wave to sweep the trauma he caused under the rug. It is acknowledged and does serve to develop the series story arc -- or it looks that way, given the ending.

Anyway, I really like that Wilks is willing to go there with her writing. I don't see a lot of moral explorations like this in genre fiction, and when I do it's usually a lot more heavy handed than this. Very much looking forward to the next book!

Carolyn F. says

I was so glad this wasn't about Lily although from a glimpse at the cover I thought that was another artist's rendition of her and kept waiting for her to pop up. The story was good, the villain was a good at being bad villain and the ending was enjoyable. 4 stars out of 5.

AH says

Initial Thoughts: Another excellent installment in *The World of the Lupi* series. While it had a slow start and some missing favorite characters, **Unbinding** was an exciting story that focused on some of the secondary characters of the series. In this book a fae god favoring chaos gets a little too big for his britches and Kai, Nathan, Benedict, Cullen, and Arjeni and the rest of the San Diego pack work to bring back normality to the world. Oh, kudos to Dell, one of the best familiar characters ever.

The Review

The *World of the Lupi* series by Eileen Wilks has got to be one of urban fantasy's best kept secrets. I don't understand why more people haven't heard of this wonderful series. Everyone that I've recommended this series to has loved it. The series is full of all sorts of supernatural creatures: werewolves, dragons, fae, and more. The author takes from various lore and myths as well.

In **Unbinding**, the author has moved the lead couple Lily and Rule away, out of the picture. While they are sadly missed, it is for their own good and it gives the reader a chance to meet Nathan and Kai, two very interesting characters with some unique capabilities and talents.

I enjoyed the descriptions of the ever changing fae city capital. I loved how the author integrates the clan mythology of the werewolves which is based on Native Indian lore with that of the fae. The magic is also fascinating.

I'm very excited to hear that book 12 **Mind Magic** is planned for release in November. I can't wait!

Thank you to NetGalley and Penguin Group Berkeley NAL for a review copy of this book.

RachelW (BamaGal) says

Just wasn't feeling this one. I missed Lily and Rule; and prefer to read about the Lupi and Lily's cases. I'm not a big fan of the Fae; never have cared for them. I finally skimmed to the end to read the last chapter and epilogue.

I want to read about Lily and Rule !!!

Shari Kay says

2.5 ★

I can't in good conscience give this a full three stars because I given other books the average rating that were better than this one. So, there ya go...

So I liked Kai. I liked Nathan. I was okay with the book not centering on Rule and Lily. If it's all good, what's with the low rating? A few things...the first one being the biggest reason.

1.) All the magical explanations! OMG, I wanted to zone out, scream, skim, roll my eyes and rip the virtual pages out of my Kindle. Wilks does this, it's not new; she likes us to understand her world of magic. But we never do! I've always hated it. The details go on and on about subjects that I, and the characters(they say so), don't understand and mostly DO NOT CARE about. Has she ever given the short version? No. But in Unbinding, it is mega overload. As soon as we get past one long assed explanation...Wilks starts on another one. Ugh! If this would have been my first book by this author I would have totally given up.

2.)Beating a dead horse...err god. Didn't we have enough of the god of Chaos in the last book? Apparently not. And all the rapes. I just kept thinking, "help these people"! At least say something. Try. I understand the god is crazy...but unless it involved them directly, none of the men even tried to convince him to stop.

And only one sentence was given to the aftermath of all the god's raping...something along the lines of the emotional wounds taking longer to heal for the victims. Ya think??? Some of those raped were just kids...sixteen years old. And he raped boys and girls both. Beguiling(or whichever term of confusing magic it ended up being)them into thinking they wanted it and enjoyed it. I can't imagine how messed up they'd be after that. It was really disturbing and for as politically correct as this author is...I was slightly stunned that she didn't address it more.

So will I continue the series? Yah. The Lupi world is rich and detailed. The characters, though not always consistent, are interesting and I've come to care about most of them...enough at least to find out how it all ends.

Jen Davis says

I have wanted more time with Kai and Nathan since they were introduced back in "Inhuman," so I was

actually pretty excited about the chance to get some quality time with them as lead characters. I wasn't disappointed. This book has a different feel than the others, to be sure, but I think it was smart for Eileen Wilks to take a break from Lily and Rule. After all, they got their big moment at the end of the last book. It was the culmination of their romance. Anything that happened with them was going to be small potatoes after that. So Wilks sent them on their honeymoon, and switched her focus.

Thankfully, this story doesn't happen in a vacuum. The series supporting cast of characters are in place, reminding us that even without Lily and Rule, we're on familiar ground. The villain is even a continuation from the last book, which maintains continuity. But the crux of the story is a fae one. I missed the focus on the wolves more than I missed Lily and Rule. The fact that we are leaving the familiar means larger chunks of worldbuilding that do slow things down a little. But I was never bored.

Basically, the bad guy from Ritual Magic didn't go away with the destruction of the knife he inhabited. He is causing more chaos and targeting Nathan and Kai. They need to figure out his big plan and how to stop him. That's no small task, seeing as how he is a god and all. Another thing different about this story is that we actually spend a fair amount of time getting to know the bad guy. It made things interesting.

I can't say there was much in the way of romance, but the bond between Nathan and Kai is real and it's strong. I never doubted their love or devotion to one another. Kai is quite different from Cynna or Lily. She is not tough the way they are. Her spirit is –I don't know– lighter, maybe. She isn't weak. It's just that her strength is a different kind from the other heroines'. And more so than they, she is trying to figure things out about herself and her future by looking deep within. Meanwhile, Nathan has such a deep sense of self. He's like a rock, yet he needs Kai. She fills a void in him he didn't even realize he had. Good stuff.

It was cool spending time with Arjenie. She and Benedict are underutilized in this series. His role was smaller than hers, but still important. I hope that the friendships established here carry over in future books.

Overall, I enjoyed it. But it definitely feels different than most of the other books in the series. And I don't think it's because of the leads so much as the cerebral and cold nature of the Fae as compared to the Lupi. There's a lot of explaining. A lot of magic theory (though the last book had a lot of that too.) It wasn't quite as encompassing, either, without the mantles and the clan stuff, the Great Enemy, the Dragons, or Grandmother. Still, I liked it for what it was. And I'm curious as to where Wilks will take the series next.

Rating: B

momokaachan says

To get the full flavor of this book, you should read *Inhuman*, which gives backstory to Kai and Nathan. If I hadn't refreshed my memory with this prequel, I might not have waded through the first chapter or so of this story. I'm really glad I persevered; the first chapter's events become very relevant later in the book.

That being said: I really enjoyed this chapter of the Lupi saga. Even if Rule and Lily weren't there for the most part, many other characters were and helped make this story entertaining. I admit without guilt that I liked Kai as an MC better than I liked Cynna (several books ago). Nathan's unique - almost alien - POV and commentary on humans, Lupi, and others is interesting. He and Kai obviously love each other - their mutual dependence is tangible without being stifling.

So please don't be put off by the lack of Lily and Rule. There is *plenty* going on for Kai and Nathan. I did not foresee the resolution of the crisis - that is all I am going to say, except well done, Ms. Wilks!

Jilly says

Gather round, children. It is time for Auntie Jilly to tell you a story of the good old days - the 1980's. See, the television sit-com was a big thing. We never heard of some crazy stuff like Netflix, and we had very few channel choices. So, we sat around our giant televisions and watched our favorite characters get into madcap adventures and laughed our fanny-pack wearing asses off in a vapor of Aquanet and second-hand smoke. It was a simpler time...

But, every once in a while, something strange would happen. We would be watching our favorite show and the episode would focus on some peripheral character and their life. It was like mad science gone wrong! Where were Richie and Potsey? Why is this episode focused on Joannie and Chachi? Surely we are going to get back to the main characters, right? But, NO. We were wrong! The whole show was about the lesser-known characters. Sure, Fonzie made an appearance, but the whole damn episode was Joannie and Chachi! Crap! It's a spin-off show trap!

hmmm... I'd watch that...

This book is basically one of those television episodes. The whole story is focused on a couple who were introduced in a novella earlier. They were okay, but not whole-book-worthy. I just had a hard time caring about them. Plus, the biggest support characters in this one were Benedict and Arjenie - two of my least favorite characters in the series. So, my Give-a-Shitometer was even lower.

On top of all of that, there was a helluva lot of raping going on in this book, and it was treated a little too casually for me. In the end, the story gave way more sympathy to the rapist than to his victims. Not a fan of that.

Book?

Come back, Lily and Rule!! We need you!

Mei says

Arghhhh!!! Just when I thought I found a series that doesn't have bad books I read this one...

Maybe I'm not a big fan of *spiritual* part of this world, but here it was soooo confusing!!!

I liked Kai and Nathan, and I liked Benedict and Arjenie, but this book was more about Benedict and Nathan and Kai and Arjenie since the men were in a kind of godhood realm, while the women were on Earth. So not good...

The only part I liked is the ending where where the evil god were not really evil (even if he was!), but just lost in his grief and thus having become insane...

I know, that sounds crazy, but as I said this whole story was confusing... :(
And it took me an age to finish reading it...

On to the next!

Melindeeloo says

3 stars = I liked it (but with nits) Lily and Rule are off on their Honeymoon, but trouble doesn't take a break just because they are gone. A chaos god out for revenge and has Nathan and Kai, who are back from the fae world in his sights.

I like this but with nits. I didn't mind reconnecting with Nathan and Kai (from Inhuman and Night Season (Book 4)) and I liked seeing Arjenie again (but would have liked more Benedict). This didn't end up being one of my favorite Lupi stories though because there were way too many info dump discussions of magic and such and without those this had the heart of a short story.

I peeked at the teaser for the next book and there's a character that I don't recognize. If Wilks' is going to shift focus from Lily and Rule, I wish we'd get some more or Ruben, I'd like to see more of him since his Change. That said, this did make me want to go back and read Inhuman to see a bit more of Nathan and Kai.

Mitticus says

Since Nathan first story in Inhuman -and then a few snippets in Night Season and the end of Ritual Magic-, I was fascinated with the idea of the Hound turned 'human' (or Wild Sidhe). So this is a story about Nathan and Kai that I was waiting a long time ago.

Nathan destroys the artifact in Ritual Magic, but not the god of chaos ... and vengeance. So when San Diego starts to show odd events of magic and attacks is not good news.

We have a mad sidhe god, Lupi, Cullen and Cynna, Arjenie and Benedict, Nettie, and Nathan with Kai and Dell (the chameleon). Better prepare yourself for a wild run.... and Hunt.

There are a few moments of blabla when they speak about 'spirit' and the difference between 'intention', 'compulsion' and 'mental wash' that I do not understand very much as a matter of fact. But later, we have the typical friction between the FBI, the Unit 12 and the local policemen when they all feel in disadvantage

before the magic threat that some do not understand, whereas others try to avoid an imminent disaster.

The incorporation of Navajo mythology joined to the peculiar idea of the sidhes and the adorers (that already has appeared in other novels of the series) it is very interesting.

Winter, the queen sidhe turns out to be different enough from our fantasy fey, not as a capricious creature, but wise, though always immensely powerful.

...You will live a long time, my beautiful Nadrellian. Not as long as I, but long enough to grow weary, as many of my people do. Remember this: the only way to live is to live — and death is always, always, part of living. We die over and over. We die over and over. Oh, the big death comes but once, but a thousand deaths arrive with every turn of the seasons — the death of a day or a lover, of a friend or a dream, death piled upon death. The slow sundering of years parts us even from who we once were and from the memories which parented us. Live anyway.”

She'd straightened, suddenly regal, the mantle of her power falling over her — Winter in full truth. “With those thousand deaths come a thousand births. Ten thousand, if we're alive enough to notice. Drink whatever comes to you, death or life or both together, drink it down, whether the draught be sweet or bitter. If you refuse the one, you won't be able to taste the other.”

Algunos puntos en contra:

-The macho posturing of Benedict with Nathan is very annoying.

-El final del 'villano' es algo apresurado.

At the end is all about loneliness

Winter:

For you already know, don't you? True connection, deep connection, is as rare as it is precious. When it happens in spite of all we can do to hide from it — you must have noticed how you terrified me at first? — when it happens anyway, hold nothing back.”

Nathan:

It was insane to wish himself in Benedict's place, punctured lung, slow healing, and all, just because that man wasn't alone. There was another lesson for him. Seemed he'd lost the knack of being alone. Isolated. Cut off from everyone and everything that mattered. Cut off from Kai.

And luuurv (view spoiler)

(hide spoiler)]

En suma, una de las mejores novelas de la serie.
