



# Pocket Apocalypse

*Seanan McGuire*

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## **Pocket Apocalypse** Seanan McGuire

Endangered, *adjective*: Threatened with extinction or immediate harm.

Australia, *noun*: A good place to become endangered.

Alexander Price has survived gorgons, basilisks, and his own family—no small feat, considering that his family includes two telepaths, a reanimated corpse, and a colony of talking, pantheistic mice. Still, he's starting to feel like he's got the hang of things...at least until his girlfriend, Shelby Tanner, shows up asking pointed questions about werewolves and the state of his passport. From there, it's just a hop, skip, and a jump to Australia, a continent filled with new challenges, new dangers, and yes, rival cryptozoologists who don't like their "visiting expert" very much.

Australia is a cryptozoologist's dream, filled with unique species and unique challenges. Unfortunately, it's also filled with Shelby's family, who aren't delighted by the length of her stay in America. And then there are the werewolves to consider: infected killing machines who would like nothing more than to claim the continent as their own. The continent which currently includes Alex.

Survival is hard enough when you're on familiar ground. Alex Price is very far from home, but there's one thing he knows for sure: he's not going down without a fight.

## **Pocket Apocalypse Details**

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# From Reader Review Pocket Apocalypse for online ebook

## Bradley says

Maybe I'm really getting used to the series or I'm really loving Alex and Shelby's dynamics or I think I'm falling for Australia or maybe the writing is just getting that much better, but I love this instalment of the series much more than all the rest.

It's not just the talking mice, mind you. It's Helen the Wadjet, Basil the yowie, and the entire freakin clan of the Thirty-Sixers.

The novel is kinda a "meet the family" with a truly horrible infestation of werewolves. It worked really, really well. :) I'm stoked and thrilled. :)

I'm not just having fun any more. This fourth book commemorates my official and formal status of FANBOY. :)

Alex has rapidly and far-outstripped my previous enjoyment of his little sister's adventures. :)

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## Christal says

### 3.5 stars

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**Pocket Apocalypse** is the second book in the *InCryptid* series narrated by Alex Price. I've always preferred Verity as narrator over Alex, but I did find much more to love about him in this book than its predecessor, [Half-Off Ragnarok](#). I thought the story was exciting overall, but moving the setting to Australia just didn't work for me. I've enjoyed the time with Alex and his girlfriend Shelby, but I will be happy to have Verity back as the narrator for the next book and am looking forward to Antimony's two books after that.

**Pocket Apocalypse** sees Alex and Shelby traveling to her native Australia to help her family and the Thirty Six Society with an unexpected werewolf problem. Australia has never had werewolves before so they aren't quite prepared to deal with the outbreak. Alex had a rather traumatic experience with werewolves when he was younger, but he packs his PTSD away to help Shelby as much as he can. Seanan McGuire has a very interesting and unique take on werewolves, as she does all the cryptids, but I do admit to being a little disappointed with this story focusing on them. I was hoping for something new and exciting, something that hadn't already been featured in hundreds of stories, especially with the setting being Australia - the land where everything can kill you.

As a long-time Seanan McGuire fan girl, it pains me to give this book 3.5 stars. I just disliked Shelby's family and the way they treated Alex and Shelby so much that it brought down my overall rating. At first, the way they gave Alex a hard time was funny; it seemed to be somewhat good-natured ribbing. It quickly became tiresome though, the mother and father especially becoming caricatures of themselves with just how hardheaded they were -- refusing to listen to Alex when he had firsthand knowledge about werewolves and even blaming him for things that there was no way he could be responsible for. They didn't even have a true

reason to dislike him; they didn't even know him. They behaved strictly on principle because Alex is American and his family is ex-Covenant. I came to like Shelby's sisters by the end of the book, but I just never liked her parents.

Speaking of Shelby, it's a wonder she came out as well-adjusted as she is with a family like hers. They gave her a lot of passive-aggressive guilt, but Shelby shown by standing up for herself and Alex. She knew that their relationship was the real deal and she didn't let her family discourage her. She was smart and quick thinking and really made me like her in **Pocket Apocalypse**.

Alex was also pretty great in **Pocket Apocalypse**. He did have a habit of monologuing a little too much but, other than that, he really showed himself to be a Price. He was decisive, thoughtful, brave, and not afraid to change his way of thinking when presented with new information.

I was excited to see this book was set in Australia, at first any ways. By the end of **Pocket Apocalypse**, the exotic setting wasn't enough to balance the cost of not having my favorite characters around -- Crow, Dee, Sarah, and the rest of the Price/Baker clan -- especially when there weren't many new *likeable* characters to replace them with. The one new character that I did really like was Basil. He was the perfect mix of creepy, misunderstood, and awesome that Seanan is so great at creating in her cryptids. Aside from him and Shelby's family, most of the characters were either one-dimensional (most of the Thirty Sixers) or bad guys.

Possibly my favorite thing about **Pocket Apocalypse** was getting to know so much more about the Aeslin mice! It was terrific; I just love those little guys. They really proved their worth here and showed everyone that though they may be but small, they are fierce. I really hope we continue to see them heavily involved in the future books.

If the family dynamics had been toned down, **Pocket Apocalypse** would have been another four star read for me. Unfortunately, the "nasty in-laws" stereotype dragged the whole story down. I did enjoy it, just not as much as previous installments. I am still excited for more books in this series though!

*Thank you to DAW for providing a print ARC copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Sarah says**

In **Pocket Apocalypse** we continue to follow Alex's journey but this time we get to see him travel to Australia with Shelby to help her family deal with a Lycanthropy outbreak. I've come across a lot of different werewolves over the years, from scary monsters to ones who have complete control over their transformations and I have to say that **Seanan McGuire's** are some of the creepiest I've read about. In this world Lycanthropy is a disease and if you're infected it changes your body in all kinds of horrible ways. What makes it even worse is that it's not only humans who can be infected and the disease can pretty much be spread to any mammal. The smaller ones don't tend to survive their first transformation but larger animals end up becoming pretty terrifying when they're also werewolves. The prologue showing Alex's first encounter with werewolves was scary but there was a scene later on in the book that was enough to give me nightmares!

Anyway, Australia is a closed ecosystem and they've never had to deal with werewolves before so when Shelby finds out what is going on back home she asks Alex to go with her to help her family. Alex is pretty terrified of werewolves but there is no way he can let Shelby deal with the situation alone so, along with a

splinter colony of six Aeslin mice, they set out to help. I think at this point I have to say again how much I adore those mice, I wish I could have a colony of my own and they are always a highlight of these books! I love how devoted they are to the Price family and it always makes me smile when they mention Alex's ancestors, especially when they follow rules that were set by previous members of the family.

I enjoyed getting to see Alex out of his element, Australia is a very different environment to what he is used to and we meet some interesting local Cryptids but the thing that really bothered me was the way Shelby's family and the rest of the Thirty-Sixers treated him. I could kind of understand that her family don't want Shelby to fall in love with an American and end up moving away permanently but considering Alex has put his life at risk to come and help them I was annoyed by the way they acted. Even if you ignored her father's posturing and threatening the new boyfriend attitude there was no excuse for the way the society treated a visiting expert - the ONLY person they had around with any previous werewolf experience. Their utter ignorance and refusal to listen to reason ended up causing some pretty devastating consequences and I've not forgiven them for that yet.

I did love the way Shelby stood up for Alex though, she told her family in no uncertain terms that Alex was going to be a permanent part of their lives and they just had to deal with it. I've really grown to respect Shelby in this book, I liked her before but now I'm totally rooting for them as a couple. Shelby has learnt a lot about Cryptids from Alex and his family and she wants to share that information with the Thirty-Sixers, she realises that they've made mistakes with how they've dealt with certain creatures in the past and she's willing to apologise and make things right in the future. Unfortunately the Thirty-Sixers are much less willing to see where they've been going wrong and I'm not convinced they'll change their ways any time soon. Alex also goes on a sharp learning curve in this book, his family have only had limited dealings with werewolves in the past and he makes a lot of new discoveries here that he's going to be able to share with everyone else when he returns.

I'm having so much fun reading this series and I've really enjoyed getting to know Alex and Shelby but I'm equally excited that we're getting to revisit Verity and Dominic in the next book before moving on to Antimony's story. I hope that we've not seen the last of Alex though, I'd like to see this series continue for a long time and keep switching up the narrators so we get to carry on spending time with everyone.

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## **Wanda says**

The Aeslin Mice get to go Down Under! A second book following Alex Price, brother to Verity and boyfriend to Shelby, as he and Shelby go to Australia to assist her family and the Thirty Six Society deal with a unexpected breakout of lycanthropy. The question becomes, which is more dangerous to Alex, the werewolves or Shelby's father?

As usual, the mice made the book for me. I really enjoyed the six acolytes packed in the carry-on luggage. They stealthily raid the plane's pantry, set up headquarters in Australia, and go snake hunting. Not only that, we learn that they have special abilities that help with more than just Alex's relationship with his potential in-laws.

Nerdy Alex is in the right place, using science to deal with both the outbreak and his fear. Just for the record, the cover once again depicts Shelby as Barbie in Bindi Irwin's clothes (i.e. rather stereotypically) and Alex is not shown wearing glasses, which is plain from the text that he needs in order to see.

Another enjoyable romp with the Price family.

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## Carol. says

It's an apocalypse, all right--a three-hundred page written disaster.

I'll be blunt. I don't read this series for the gorgeous writing; I read for the fun menagerie of fantastical animals. *Pocket Apocalypse* feels even more tossed off than is usual for McGuire, the majority of the writing a workmanship 'telling.' It's a style that works when one is going through unusual locations, as in *Discount Armageddon* (New York City sewers), introducing non-human sapients in *Midnight Blue-Light Special* (math-loving cuckoos), or unusual creatures in *Half-Off Ragnarok* (frickens, gorgons and their sub-species). But *Pocket* brings nothing new to the storytelling table and leaves out all that was good. Instead, Alex Price is taking leave from the zoo to venture to his girlfriend's Australian home to deal with an outbreak of werewolves.

The book feels like a novella with a couple of short stories tacked on. It begins with a flashback where Alex froze in a confrontation with a werewolf. Never mind that we've heard all about the drills Alex's parents put their kids through, or the almost-lethal games the siblings would play. Sigh. It's followed by a short episode in which Alex's assistant Dee follows him on a research trip to look at some migrating screaming yams. Although Dee is a gorgon, with actual snakes for hair, she completely disbelieves the plants exist. Then, instead of the purported migration, we find a circle of plants that moves a few feet when they are disturbed. It's the first hint that neither character (why a Gorgon who works with unusual species such as basilisks would disbelieve Alex) nor world-building are particularly consistent (the plants move in response to disturbance and hibernate in the winter. By definition, that isn't migration). So much for descriptive precision in our lead scientist character. We're off to Australia. Sort of. First we have to argue with the grandparents and get the Aeslin mice through security.

The writing is tedious. Potentially cute anecdotes such as mice on the plane are marred by eye-rolling PSAs about deep vein thrombosis and snooze-worthy explanations of things that really don't need explanation: **"Again, I chose not to argue. If it meant the mice were happy and under control for the duration of flight, they could raid the minibar as much as they wanted... The mice could find their own way. They'd managed to wander off without my assistance, after all."** Too. Many. Meaningless. Words. Oh, and Alex's main reaction to other people talking? Blinking. A lot.

Hope that things would improve when Alex reached Australia were doomed. The Australian dynamics were less about werewolves and more about Alex' interactions with his girlfriend Shelby's family. Her dad somehow characterizes Alex as 'Covenant,' which hasn't been true for generations and makes no sense given the completely opposite philosophies. He's also provincial enough that he resents an 'outsider' despite needing information about weres. Honestly, if I was Australian, I might be a little bit offended, as the locals come off like nothing so much as insular, gun-toting reactionaries that tend to race for their guns and can't ask an analytical question to save their lives. I suppose it is supposed to come off as Alex and Shelby vs Australia, but instead it just feels like a couple of people in the middle of stupid, illogical infighting in the middle of a stupid, illogical group (their solution to body storage? A locked unrefrigerated shed).

Plotting goes off the rails here. Although Alex is supposed to be 'expert' he really doesn't have much to offer--all they do at home is kill weres asap. When challenged that the Australians could just rely on 'lore,' Alex

claims he knows something new: a 'cure' that may kill as much as it saves. Interestingly, once he makes a single attempt to create the 'cure,' it isn't mentioned again. There's also a lot of confusing bits about how loupism is a virus that effects anything over 70 pounds or so. We know this from Alex' history with the werewolves with herbivore teeth and suspiciously hoof-like appendages, but later in the book we're told that the original species of animal is indistinguishable after transformation. It's like information Alex supplies becomes whatever is needed at the time; there's no laid-out explanation for the stupid Australians. When Alex takes an initial opportunity to share information with the group, he tells them it could be a nation-wide disaster, followed with the obvious advice of monitoring bitten people for 28 days and to try and track down the source patient.

It's just a mess for me, missing the humor, the fun and the creativity of the other books in the series and replacing it with a low-grade description of the worst visit-the-girlfriend's-parents saga ever. Since the plotting relies on an unbelievable amount of stupidity and close-mindedness followed by convenient discoveries that have almost nothing to do with actions of the leads, it isn't even enjoyable on a mystery level. I missed the creative new creatures. Though there's a 'Field Guide' at the end of the book, it is an unnecessary device as everything centered on the werewolves. Honestly, I'd only recommended it if you love everything McGuire does.

One and a half stars because... well, I didn't throw it across the room.

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### **Emma says**

I didn't enjoy this one as much, largely because of Shelby's family. I enjoyed the first Alex story but will be happy to move on to the other Price main characters.

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### **All Things Urban Fantasy says**

All Things Urban Fantasy

With a series about cryptids who can kill you in very weird ways it was inevitable that a visit to Australia, a land of ten thousand things that can kill you if you look at them wrong; was in store for the Incryptid series. *POCKET APOCALYPSE* introduces werewolves into this world which from the perspective of someone who has read a ton of werewolf related books, seemed kind of mundane for this series. Luckily, the werewolves in this book were something unique and treated as an invasive disease of a sort which increased the threat level of werewolves and made a seemingly 'boring' cryptid into something dangerously strange and fitting within this world.

With this werewolf apocalypse occurring in Australia we get to visit Alex's girlfriend's family and see how the human-cryptid culture in Australia works. It was fun to see the different approach in the treatment of cryptids which is vastly different to how the Price family runs things in the U.S. Shelby's family introduces a new dynamic for Alex to interact with and it was kind of fun to see him try to figure out how to get on the good side of these people who are already suspicious of his intentions with Shelby and his capabilities in dealing with this werewolf apocalypse. I liked having Alex as a kind of unconventional hero. He's a science geek, who happens to know his way around a gun. Much of the way he figures the werewolf issue out is through scientific analysis and reasoning. Also shooting things. While there is a lot of thinking and analyzing

there are some fantastic and teeth-clenching action scenes in this story.

POCKET APOCALYPSE is a fun cryptid mystery with a good balance of snark, tension, and tons of twists that I honestly didn't see coming. The only complaint I had was the fact that no one had a drop bear as a pet because I wanted to see one in this story. The pet Church Griffin was an acceptable and awesome replacement. While I had fun with Alex, Shelby, and Shelby's kind of frightening family, I am looking forward to seeing what Alex's sister Verity has been up to in CHAOS CHOREOGRAPHY coming out in 2016.

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### **Moonlight Reader says**

Somewhere between it was ok & liked it. I still love the Aeslin mice, but Alex isn't my favorite main character, and Shelby's family is ugh.

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### **?★Tinja★★ A Court of Pizza and Laziness says**

Only 3 stars for this one, the Tanners ruined my reading experience.

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### **Maria Dimitrova says**

#### **Buddy read with the Wednesday UF freaks at BB&B.**

What happens when you combine a slightly nerdy cryptozoologist with the scariest continent in the world? An extremely entertaining adventure! When I first read the blurb and saw that this book takes place in Australia I knew that this will be epic! Alexander Price has definitely stolen the number one place from his sister Verity. I liked her but Alex is much easier to relate to. His love interest is also easier to like. Shelby Tanner is adorable and only slightly crazy. But the latter is a must when you're a) a cryptozoologist and b) a cryptozoologist from Australia. Apparently that place has the weirdest cryptids ever. So when a call for help comes from Shelby's family that they have a situation with werewolves Alex agrees to go with his girlfriend and help.

Seanan McGuire's take on werewolves was interesting and while not unique well enough executed with a few twists that make it purely her own. I loved this version though when it comes to werewolves my heart belongs to those that inhabit Mercy Thompson's universe.

At first I had high hopes for Shelby's family and the Thirty-six Society. Boy was I wrong! Stuck up, narrow minded fools! The Tanners act like a bunch of red necks when it comes to Alex. God forbid that he is dating their daughter/sister. He is completely unacceptable! Why, you might ask? Because he has a penis apparently. Everything else is just excuses! And because he is dating Shelby they completely disregard his expertise. I was so mad at them the whole time that I wouldn't have minded if one or more of them ended up dead! Honestly Alex is a saint! He only used sarcasm to deal with them. I would have punched some of them in the stupid faces, got my splinter colony of Aeslin mice (yep a few of them when with Alex to observe his holiness at this mission and preserve his adventures and words of wisdom for the generations!) and got on the first plane back, leaving those fools to die. And the 36-ers are you average racist snobs. They're only a



little bit better the Covenant. They're only saving grace is that they don't kill the cryptids. Otherwise they are just the same as the mass murdering fanatics of the Covenant.

The book was fast paced and once I started I could hardly put it down. There was action, humour (I love the banter) and tragedy. One (view spoiler) packed an incredible amount of emotional punch and I cried like a baby. I still can't believe that Ms. McGuire can be so cruel! \*sob sob\* Still it was a great book and I recommend it to UF fans.

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## Choko says

\*\*\* 4.25 \*\*\*

### A buddy read with my UF cohorts at BB&B! We love our Aeslin Mice!!!

*"... "Adversity doesn't exist to make us stronger. Adversity exists because this world is a damn hard place to live. Prove that you're better than the things it throws at you. Live."..."*

Our little buddy reading group have all decided that we need our own, designated colony of Aeslin Mice, since it turns out they have stolen all of our hearts. And how can anyone resist their charm and stature, no matter how diminutive it is:) In this forth book in the series, a splinter colony of six mice accompany Alex and his girlfriend to Australia, where an epidemic of lycanthropy virus is turning the citizens of this very ecologically different continent into werewolves. Danger and death seem to lurk around every corner in this place and those who are supposed to be the Price family natural allies are turning out to be less than reliable... And the Tanner family is at the least hostile, openly wishing they could dump Alexes' lifeless body in a bog somewhere, never to be seen again... I guess it is a good thing that Shelly loves him fiercely, or that could have been his faith soon after stepping on the Australian soil...

*"... "I would greatly prefer it if you didn't put a bullet into my brain; it would complicate my plans for life, most of which involve not being dead."..."*

We found that the Aeslin Mice travel well, can raid places for snacks, and can sniff out certain diseases once in the human body. This splinter colony left us with many memorable moments and as always, they were my favorite part of the book. We also met some cryptides specific for the local flora and fauna, and as a whole, we were mightily forewarned about the dangers of going among them in this magical and very scary continent of Australia!!!

*"... "Australia basically holds the copyright on "weird ecosystem." The only place where you're going to find weirder things is at the bottom of the ocean, and no one suggests that you go there for a fun family vacation."..."*

I love this series! I love Alex, a bit more than I love Verity, and I love Verity quite a lot! And I love the way Seanan McGuire can tell a story in the most entertaining but touching way possible!!! With every passing book my respect for her grows and grows and I feel privileged to have been gifted with the joy her work provides. I am of the lucky ones who have discovered the magic of her storytelling and the enchantment of the worlds she creates. This is why I feel I have to invite you all to do the same - this author is absolutely worth the time!!!! I personally can not wait to jump he next book:):):)

"...""*A life that is lived carefully, calmly, with thorough preparation and sufficient resources, is likely to be healthy, long, and incredibly boring. Fortunately, I have never been in danger of living that particular life.*"..."

I wish you all Happy Reading and Happy Holidays!!!!

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## **Robin (Bridge Four) says**

Pocket Apocolypse as remembered by the Aesin Mice and recited by honorary acolyte Robin of the Bridge Four.

And Lo, it was declared by the God of Scales and Silences that he would travel to the dangerous Island of Australia to help the Unpredictable Priestess find the wolves that walk as men and cleanse her land. And the Older Heartless one did not want him to go but the Younger Heartless one declared

*"Besides, if Alex goes to help Shelby with the werewolves in Australia, he can meet her family, and maybe they'll approve of him."*

But alas the meeting of family did not go smoothly for the God of Scales and Silences as The Unpredictable Priestess's family was not ready for the glory of our god.

We travelled by a bus that sweeps across the sky to the new land and it was a glorious crossing indeed filled with great blessings of Cheese. The God of Scales and Silence proclaimed

*Stay Quiet and Stay Still until we were in blessed transit. And truly did we heed your words, which echoed the ancient teachings of the God of Unexpected Situations, husband to the Violent Priestess. But once we came to blessed transit, we turned instead to the words of the Noisy Priestess, who did tell us, lo, You May Leave the Bag, Just Don't Get Caught. And we have left the bag, and we have not been caught!"*

The Unpredictable Priestess's family had many members and a large compound full of great trinkets and feathers to gather to add to our clan. We hunted the mighty snakes of the land and watched as the God of Scales and Silence searched to the Wolves who walk as men. He was hurt in his hunt and lo did the Unpredictable Priestess say

*How have you even lived this long?"... "There's a cockatrice, you look at it. There's a werewolf, you get bitten by it. Did you ever meet a monster you didn't want to turn into? It's hard on the heart, Alex. It's just . . . it's so damn hard on the heart."*

The dangers were horrible not just the ones from the infectious beasts but those from The Unpredictable Priestess's family. They are not like our gods. They protect those Cryptids that cannot talk and scuttle on four legs but they did not help those who lived among them and thought them lesser. Spending time among our gods the Unpredictable Priestess knew this was not the way.

The challenges to the God of Scales and Silence were many. Find the one who walk as wolves, cleanse the

ones who were infected and win the favor of the Priestess's family. But lo, we were not afraid for we knew our God would persevere even if everyone did not make it out alive.

We now take this moment of silence to mourn those who were lost in our holy mission may they have cheese and cake and dance forever among the soft feathers of our past. Please join us later for the retelling of the Arboreal Priestess and the Snake Cult.

The short of it.

So basically this is Alex goes to Australia to win the girl and defeat the Werewolves. This is a fun story as we have now read various ways that Alex grew up and the how he was trained to be a Price. Well I thought that Shelby's family would be the Australian version of the Prices. And they are to a certain extent but they are a whole different shade of crazy. So Alex has to find the Werewolves, convince Shelby's parents that he is good enough for her and possibly change the mentality of the 36ers. Easy Peasy Right.

At least we find out how Sarah's recovery is going. SHE IS DOING CALCULUS! YAY!!!

Another fantastically fun book in this series and I can't wait to get back to Verity and Dominic to see what they are up to now.

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## Angela says

This book continues with Alex as the main narrator again. And I couldn't have been happier about that! When I found out we'd be going to Australia - the land where regular nature wants to kill you, never mind adding cryptids to the mix, and doubly never mind there being a lycanthropy outbreak in process - I was ecstatic. And scared.

Scared because no matter how much I love shapeshifters in a lot of my fiction, and how much werewolves in fiction have run the gamut from scary to friendly, these werewolves TERRIFIED me. And they just kept getting scarier. Werewolves in this world are infected. It's a disease. No matter what we know or don't know about it, it's a contaminant to the body, and by that nature alone it's not a good thing.

And it turns out there's a lot we don't know. I really appreciated how much we, and Alex (and thus the rest of the Prices) learn throughout this book. The fact that Alex continues to expand his, and his family's, knowledge is one of the things that I love most about him. He continues to be one of my favorite characters - it's hard to choose which Price to love more, so I'll just say I love them the same.

Shelby continues to be a bright spot here, too. I appreciated how she continues to learn and recognize her own prejudices, and *apologize* for them. She isn't afraid to acknowledge that she made a mistake, might have been wrong, or treated someone poorly. It's not always comfortable to admit to those failings, and I love that Shelby does it - as soon as she realizes that it's a failing she's had.

Unfortunately, I'm left fumbling between bewilderment, frustration, and outright hatred for the majority of the rest of her family now. And the Thirty-Sixers are right there with them. Their obstinance, ignorance, lack of respect, and outright efforts to block any help Alex may be able to give - endangering many beloved characters and alienating other sapient cryptids - and I'm left with no respect. The entire book they fought

against common sense and reason, and that they wouldn't give an ounce of respect to Alex, who was nothing but respectful and professional with them. He went above and beyond. And they were obstinate assholes the entire freaking time. I hate them. All of them can rot.

Even more unfortunately, they're a big part of the story as we're in Australia to help them with the werewolf problem. \*sigh\* But that doesn't negatively affect the story - it just makes me hate the Thirty-Sixers more. The story is pretty awesome and intriguing. I like how things that are *known* can always be expanded on. I like how the Prices are always willing to expand their knowledge and are eager to, in fact.

My frustration and anger comes through fairly strong here, and with good reason, trust me, but there's also moments of humor that cut through the tension at times, making things a little bit lighter. At least for a few moments. I appreciated those more than I can say, especially now, looking back.

I love this series. It's one of the best binge series I've picked up in quite a long while and I'm incredibly happy that I'm reading it. But I'll be quite happy to not see Australia, or more accurately: its resident cryptozoologists, for a *very* long time.

Review also available at The Book Eaters

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## **Ferdy says**

### **2.5 stars - Spoilers**

It was okay, the first half was quite slow and boring, the latter half was better though, the pace was faster, there was more action and there were a few fairly decent twists and turns. It still wasn't as fun as the first two books in the series though.

-It took ages for the story to fully kick in, I was bored with the parts where Alex/Shelby travelled to Australia, met Shelby's family/the thirsty six society, and then banged on about werewolves and antidotes and whatnot. I only properly got into things once Shelby's dad was attacked and Alex started to piece things together. It would have been so much more entertaining if all the info-dumps and Alex's overly long monologuing had been cut down.

-Really liked the world with all the different cryptids/creatures. I wasn't that impressed with this book focusing on werewolves though since they've been done to death. Even though the werewolves in this weren't described in the usual UF way I still would have preferred the focus to be on creatures that were less generic.

-I wasn't a fan of Alex or Shelby in the last book, they were mostly boring, they were still kind of dull in this as well but not as much. I didn't find Alex interesting at all when he was monologuing about all things werewolf or about some geeky, nonsensical science nonsense. He was much better when he was actually interacting with other characters, instead of monologuing.

Shelby was kind of blah at times as well, especially when she was being a doormat for her overbearing family. Also, I hated her calling her dad 'daddy', it was really off putting. I did like Shelby though when she was standing up to her family. I was glad she left them at the end and decided to go back with Alex, her family were so oppressive and irritating, she was much better off with Alex.

-Even though I wasn't crazy about Alex or Shelby's character, I did enjoy their relationship, they were pretty much perfect together. It was great how supportive and loyal they were with each other, without it being over the top and cheesy. I loved the part where Shelby told her family Alex was her fiancé, it was rather cute.

-I hated most of Shelby's family, Raina was pretty fun though. Shelby's parents on the other hand were infuriating, at first it was kind of fun when they were giving Alex a hard time but then it got really annoying.. Especially when they refused to listen to Alex's advice about the killer werewolves and kept blaming him for any bad thing that happened, it made them seem so ignorant.

-I didn't like that all the quotes at the beginning of the chapters were only from male members of the Price family, didn't the females in the family have any wisdom/advice to pass on in this one?

-I rolled my eyes at there being yet another UF novel where the American characters were oh so enlightened and progressive whilst pretty much all the non-American characters were ignorant, backwards, wrong, and needed the American characters to show them the light. Ugh, it was such arrogant writing.

-The Australian characters came across as caricatures for the most part. Shelby and Raina were the only ones who were given any depth, the rest were one dimensional.

-I'm glad the next book in the series will focus on Verity again, she's a far more entertaining protagonist than Alex.

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## **Steven says**

What a rollercoaster! I couldn't put this one down. I really love Shelby, and I think Alex and her make a great team.

This one had a great take on lycanthropy/werewolves, lots of action, a good mystery, and some serious family drama. Oddly enough, the family drama this time wasn't Price family drama, but involved the intensely paranoid, rude, and obnoxious Tanner family. Don't get me wrong, I liked some members of "Shelly's" family (aka Raina, whose sarcasm and Pokemon obsession cracked me up), but for the most part, no matter how much Alex proved that he was there to help them, they treated him like crap at every turn. They got a little better by the end, but there is still a lot of growth left for them (and the Society) before they're going to gain MY trust.

The Aeslin mice were also the typical treat. I love them so much!!! I want my own splinter colony, and I want it now!!! \*Veruca Salt scream\*

There was one thing in this book that seriously broke my heart. I actually cried - UGLY cried. I knew after this many books and short stories that it was bound to happen eventually... but I wasn't ready for it, not even a little bit. :(

Anyways, thanks Seanan McGuire, for another excellent book. I am actually kinda sad we're going back to Verity and Dominic in the next one -- I really like Alex and Shelby -- but it'll be nice to check back in on them.

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