



Dinner at the Blue Moon Cafe

Rick R. Reed

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Dinner at the Blue Moon Cafe Rick R. Reed 2nd Edition

A monster moves through the night, hidden by the darkness, taking men, one by one, from Seattle's gay gathering areas.

Amid an atmosphere of crippling fear, Thad Matthews finds his first true love working in an Italian restaurant called the Blue Moon Café. Sam Lupino is everything Thad has ever hoped for in a man: virile, sexy as hell, kind, and... he can cook!

As their romance heats up, the questions pile up. Who is the killer preying on Seattle's gay men? What secrets is Sam's Sicilian family hiding? And more importantly, why do Sam's unexplained disappearances always coincide with the full moon?

The strength of Thad and Sam's love will face the ultimate test when horrific revelations come to light beneath the full moon.

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Dinner at the Blue Moon Cafe Details

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Author : Rick R. Reed

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From Reader Review Dinner at the Blue Moon Cafe for online ebook

Jon says

I usually listen to audio books (the unabridged versions) via headphones traveling on hours-long plane rides or driving long trips alone. So when a book I've had my eye on was released in audio book format recently, I decided to take a chance and listen while in my car – which proved quite often as I found myself looking for places to go, errands that needed doing so I could listen to Rick R. Reed's suspenseful, romantic thriller, *The Blue Moon Café*.

Taken from the blurb for both print and audio format: "Someone—or something—is killing Seattle's gay men..." Something moves in the dark night at full moon hunting and killing gay men in the places they gather. The protagonist is Thad Matthews, a young gay man done with relationships and certainly not ready—or willing—to take yet another dive for the perfect dream that presents in the form of a sexy, super compassionate, masculine, hairy and handsome Sicilian restaurant owner and chef, Sam Lupino.

Reed begins *The Blue Moon Café* with his signature terror/horror prose, which he is well-known for delivering, quickly ensnaring the reader—or listener in my case—with heart-racing, pulsating suspense. Vivid detail and full-moon-lit scenery ratchets up anticipation and pushes the listener forward, sans trepidation. Reed tempers the heightened elements of the novel with a strong romance that provides a little distraction from the bloody killings.

Thad Matthews is unemployed and without purpose. He is every guy's friend, the boy-next-door type you'd introduce to mother, a best friend always there to support you, even if having to take a back seat. Along with his domineering Chihuahua, Edith (don't let the docile name fool you!), Thad fills his days looking for a new job, taking care of his neurotic friend, and pining about lost love. Edith, however, comes to the rescue in more ways than one, quickly proving dogs are excellent judges of character and man's best friend.

Thad treats himself to a night out, which he can't afford of course, in hopes of finding someone to fill his bed for the night. He dresses for notice and sets out for *The Blue Moon Café*, where he stumbles upon manly, macho, Sam Lupino.

Not only the owner and chef of *The Blue Moon Café*, Sam is a werewolf in a family of werewolves. He is seduced by Thad's naive charm, but once drawn to the young man, trouble beings. After a night of hot and heavy love-making, Sam leaves a goodbye note and disappears from Thad's life. But not for long as Thad can't seem to stay away from the mysterious man who tells seems to tell lies and hold secrets that prey on Thad's insecurities.

I can't divulge more of the story without ruining the mystery behind the killings, the betrayal Thad and Sam both feel at different times in their rocky relationship. What I can share is that listening to the audio book version, the voice of narrator Topher Samuels, is soothing and calming when necessary and ratchets up the suspense with inflection at thrilling scenes that puts the listener "there", in the moment staring at the beast with yellow eyes, or making love to a most compassionate man with a wounded soul.

The Blue Moon Café is a horror mystery suspense/thriller and gay romance all in one that will pull you in, scare the crap out of you and have you rooting for the unlikely relationship between human and werewolf.

Non-traditional in that it strays from modern-day romantic epics and ends with a shocking surprise that just might break your heart.

Brandon Witt says

Blue Moon Cafe was such a fun story to read (listen to, actually, as I did this one on audiobook). I think fun is actually the best descriptor of this novel. Though it may be a strange adjective to choose for a book that has a couple scenes with mild descriptions of werewolf killings. It managed to be both cheeky and keep the reader guessing, and I thoroughly enjoyed it!

Mild spoiler----as for those ratings that give it a low number because they didn't like the ending, I can't tell you sick I am of people judging a book simply because it doesn't do their expected paint-by-number storyline that 90% of books that out there right now. While I wasn't sure how it would end until the very end (which is rare), I applaud Rick R. Reed for taking the novel the way the story was meant to be instead of forcing it to be something it wasn't. Made me love it even more!

Ije the Devourer of Books says

This was a good story and the narration made it an excellent listening experience. I like Rick R Reed's writing and the narration just gave his writing an extraordinary and deeply enjoyable dimension.

The narration really brought the story to life in a way that reading wouldn't have done. The voices of the characters were just superb and I was drawn into the story in a deep way. I read this while taking my morning walks and it made the time pass by so quickly.

This isn't your usual mm romance with a fluffy ending. It has a kind of HFN ending and had lots of suspense and a twist of mystery. I could guess at the twists and turns but that didn't detract from my enjoyment because the writing, characterisation and the progression of the story really pulled me in.

I bought the ebook a few years ago but bought the audiobook recently because I hadn't got around to reading the ebook and I am glad I did this because of the way the story came to life. Sometimes I wanted to join in and comment out loud as the story progressed and I would have received some strange looks from passers by if I had done so but the story so engrossing that my commenting felt quite natural. It felt as if I could see the events playing out in real life.

I also liked the ending because it was realistic and hopeful. I don't like all my stories to have a happy ending and I sometime like to be left to think that through for myself.

So this was an enjoyable story set in Seattle with werewolves and it left me wanting to visit Seattle and also left me with a desire for some real Italian food!!

Jenni Lea says

2.5 hearts

I had a hard time getting through this story. I would pick it up, read the first chapter, and then put it back down again. For months I did this. Months. I just couldn't find any interest in it at all. I ended up forcing myself to read this more for the obligation than anything.

It wasn't as though the writing was bad or anything like that. I've enjoyed many, many of Mr. Reed's books and consider him a favorite author. And the genre was fine. I like werewolf stories. I don't even mind horror all that much. My problem is simple. I didn't like the main character, Thad. He came off as wishy-washy and shallow and that just annoyed me to no end. He couldn't make up his mind how he felt about the two new men in his life. He seemed weak to me.

Also, I never truly believed in the love between him and Sam. We got to see the immediate attraction between them but I never could figure out why the attraction was there to begin with. We would get a scene with them and then the story would jump to a month later without much description of what went on the past 30 days. I felt that there was a lot missing and it caused me to disconnect from the characters.

As a horror story, this is pretty good, even though I knew who the monster was for most of the book. The scenes we get from the monster's point of view were appropriately descriptive and gory, showcasing the monster as it really is - a monster.

I will admit I was nervous about how the story would end so I was happy that it turned out how I wanted it to but, again, it time jumped and I was left feeling like I missed out on a lot of important stuff.

I can't help but feel that the story would have been a lot more enjoyable for me if it were longer. I needed to see more of the relationship progression between Sam and Thad and maybe a bit more of the day-to-day life of Thad. As it stands now, I can't recommend this one. Shame, since it shows lots of potential.

Jewel says

DNF 35% - No rating

I just couldn't get into this story at all. The relationship was too "insta" for my tastes and the time jumps made it difficult for me to even figure out their attraction, much less anything else.

Cathy Brockman says

I love a good werewolf story but haven't read any in a while as they are too much the same. I was happily surprised that this one was unique and the werewolves weren't sparkly or watered down.

Sam Lupino has opened a new restaurant in Seattle and his family has many secrets, and he keeps to himself.

Thad has recently lost his job, living on unemployment and bored. One night he decides to try the new restaurant near him. He is surprised when the owner is so handsome and sparks fly. They begin dating then worries pop into Thad's mind when gay murders are happening on the full moon, and Sam and his family are always gone at this time.

Dinner at Blue Moon Cafe has an interesting storyline with the murders. There are side plots as well. Thad and Sam's romance and also a budding friendship with Jared who barely escapes the murderer. There are lots of twists and turns, and the thing I liked most was there was none of the werewolf marking Thad and shouting mine. There was no insta-love. The one thing I would have liked to see more of was Sam and Thad's romance along with the sex scenes were mostly off page.

If you like werewolves, mystery/suspense, a bit of a thriller, and an excellent romance you will like this one.

Cindi says

I've read the first edition. I'm eager to read the second.

~*~

4.5 stars

Full review can be found at [On Top Down Under Book Reviews](#).

This is not your typical werewolf or shifter story. Most I see out these days show the werewolf in a good light. That is definitely not the case with *The Blue Moon Cafe*. If you are familiar with this author's work then you know to expect the unexpected. If not, be prepared as this is no sweet and sappy romance. The killings are described and this book has a dark element that some might find disturbing. Me? I absolutely loved it. I am not only a huge fan of this author but I am also a huge fan of horror/thriller books. Add a little romance and hot sex (as this one does) and it was the perfect book for me. Not all will *get* it. In fact, I had to step away for several hours myself after I finished it to just think a bit before attempting to type my review. You have to look at the larger picture. There are clues to the final outcome scattered throughout the book. Everything is right there in front of you but you have to know to look for it. Saying more than that will give the story away. Once again I have been thrown a bit by how a Rick R. Reed story played out. I wouldn't have it any other way.

Another outstanding book by one of my faves.

Jenre says

The beginning of *The Blue Moon Cafe* throws us straight into horror territory as we are taken into the mind of a killer. The killer is stalking the streets of Seattle's gay district looking for young gay men to kill. He finds one and we leave his mind just as he begins to tear the man apart. We then move onto our hero Thad. Recently unemployed, Thad is finding the formless days and close confines of his apartment difficult to cope with so he decides to treat himself to a meal at a new Italian restaurant - The Blue Moon Cafe. Whilst there,

Thad meets Sam, the owner of the cafe and they hit it off, leading to a single night of passion. Later Thad meets Jared, which leaves him confused. He still has feelings for Sam, but there's also a spark with Jared, and what is the secret that Sam is hiding?

There are two story lines which run through this book and intermingle. The first is that of Thad and his love-life. When Thad meets Sam, he feels that he's met his perfect match. Sam is Sicilian, openly emotional and gregarious, and best of all, older than Thad and very hairy, something which presses all of Thad's hot buttons. The sex is out of this world and Thad finds himself falling for Sam very quickly. Sam also confesses that he has growing feelings for Thad, but when Sam constantly pushes Thad away, Thad is confused: One minute he's meeting Sam's family, the next Sam is disappearing for the weekend and being cagey about where he's been. I thought this part of the book was handled well, as we join with Thad and his growing sense of unease about Sam and who he really is.

Things are further complicated by the arrival of Jared, who is almost the opposite of Sam in that he's of Norwegian descent, blond and slender and not at all hairy. He's friendly, easygoing and open about his life in a way that Sam is not. Thad likes him a great deal and finds Jared attractive, but there's not the grand passion that he gets with Sam. Throughout the book, Thad veers in his feelings between the two men. Jared is a good friend and it feels right to have him around. They also share a number of tense, emotional moments which strengthen their friendship. In contrast Thad is overwhelmed by Sam and his sheer magnetism draws Thad to Sam, but also makes him too much of a good thing. The way that this part of the book was constructed was compelling and emotionally satisfying as I read anxiously to discover which of the two men Thad would choose, or if he would choose at all. I had my favourite - but I shall leave you to decide who your favourite might be and what Thad's final decision was.

The second storyline of the book was in the horror story of the creature who is killing the gay men of Seattle. Those of you who aren't too keen on blood, guts and gore don't need to worry too much about that with this book. There are a couple of tastefully gory scenes, but much of the horror is psychological. I was sitting on the edge of my seats a few times riddled with tension as I waited to see what was going to happen. As a big horror fan, this was just ideal for me. I also liked the portrayal of the creatures, and it was particularly effective when we were taken into the mind of the creature. Those readers used to reading shifter books where the shifters are fluffy and cuddly, are going to get a bit of a shock here as these are not cute doggies. I loved it though and it made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up whenever the killer was on the prowl. Marvellous.

There were a couple of little niggles, one of which is very minor. At the beginning of the book, much is made of Thad's unemployed status and I thought that this was going to be important later in the book, but it wasn't which seemed a bit strange. Secondly, there's a character who appears in the latter half of the book who has an important role to play in the story and then disappears again. I did wonder whether there is to be a sequel to the story which features this character, in which case I can understand his appearance, but if not then his appearance was far too convenient, and seemed a sloppy way to resolve a situation. As far as I'm aware Rick R Reed doesn't usually do sloppy, so I shall be interested to see if the enigmatic stranger who left lots of questions behind him, will appear in a future book by this author.

One final thing to say, which also hints at a sequel, is that there are a few loose ends left at the end of the book. Things are sort-of resolved, but much is left up to the reader. This isn't necessarily a bad thing for me as I don't need my endings to be tied up in a huge bow, but some readers do, and may not be wholly satisfied with how the book concludes.

Overall, if you like horror and want to read a strong, well written, character based book chock full of

suspense, romance and tension, then this book is for you. I enjoyed *The Blue Moon Cafe* a great deal and highly recommend it

Serena Yates says

There are quite a few ways to describe this book, and I still don't know which is the best one. I could call this an "entertaining murder mystery with a paranormal touch" or "a suspenseful romance with elements of horror" or even "a werewolf love story without fated mates". All of these descriptions only get to part of the truth though, so I am afraid I'll have to leave it as "an unusual novel" and recommend you read it yourself and come up with your own description. While there are elements of horror in the story, they are not overwhelming (even for someone like me who is not a fan of the horror genre), nor are they gratuitous. Instead, the "monstrous" aspects are an integral part of the progression of events, the reason for the characters' growth, and, after all, werewolves are usually not "nice" people, right?

Thad pretty much drifts along in life until he meets Sam, then Jared. He is attracted to both men, for very different reasons, and a large part of his struggle is having to make a decision which man he wants to end up with. What fascinated me about Thad was that he was honest with himself, managed not to give in to temptation when Jared seemed like the "easier" lover, and that he really grew when facing the dilemma whether to go with Sam at the end - despite everything - or take the easy path and stay with Jared.

Sam is a great character as well, though he does not have a "voice". His large Italian family owns the Blue Moon Café, and they are a big part of Sam's life – although it takes Thad quite a while to figure out why. Sam is slightly mysterious, clearly torn by something, and does the right thing to protect Thad when push comes to shove. He is an intriguing man from any angle, but don't expect clarity about him until the very end.

While the POV of the "monster" is intermittent (and gruesome since it provides a direct view of all the murders), it is very well managed and brings the "horror" aspects of this story to the fore. In that sense, it became a primary character in its own right, since its existence and actions were an essential part of the story line.

Even though I strongly suspected early on that Sam and his family were most likely werewolves (just look at their family name – Lupino) and one of them was the killer, the actual details were well managed and kept me in suspense. The pacing is excellent - hints are revealed slowly and all make sense. On top of all that, Thad struggles with his feelings for Sam, and their ending up together is not a foregone conclusion, adding another layer of suspense. I was pulled in from the start - which seemed entirely ordinary, almost boring. And that was exactly what Thad's life was like before he met Sam, so don't be fooled by the "harmlessness" exhibited in the initial pages!

If you like a clever murder mystery and a nontraditional romance in one, if you want to see a character really struggle with what he wants in life and who the right partner is for him, and if you're looking for a read that is intriguing, suspenseful, full of revelations, contains food descriptions to die for, and stars a brilliant dog who has figured it all out from the very beginning, then you will probably like this novel as much as I do. I think it's brilliant and well worth a read.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book

Reviews.

Betryal says

This book is filled with paralyzing suspense and had me sitting at the end of my seat and I was literally yelling: RUN GODAMNIT RUN!! And for your information I read it during the day and not at night.
:snorts: After what I've heard about it how stupid do you think I am?

As Rick's books always do it leaves you with a sense of awe, intrigue and quite frankly will his books ever end without you scratching your head and wondering wait a sec you can't just end it like that?

This one will do that to you. So I say turn off all your lights, leave just a little lamp turned on, lock all your doors and prepare to get sucked into this book of very realistic wolves, teeth and fangs, some gory shit, but that's to be expected and delve into Thad's world of fear, destitution, his fears and uncertainties about Sam. The man he believes he loves.

Rick says

Someone--or something--is killing Seattle's gay men.

A creature moves through the darkest night, lit only by the full moon, taking them, one by one, from the rain city's gay gathering areas.

Someone--or something--is falling in love with Thad Matthews.

Against a backdrop of horror and fear, young Thad finds his first true love in the most unlikely of places--a new Italian restaurant called The Blue Moon Cafe. Sam is everything Thad has ever dreamed of in a man: compassionate, giving, handsome, and with brown eyes Thad feels he could sink into. And Sam can cook! But as the pair's love begins to grow, so do the questions and uncertainties, the main one being, why do Sam's unexplained disappearances always coincide with the full moon? Prepare yourself for a unique blend of dark suspense and erotic romance with The Blue Moon Cafe, written by the author Unzipped magazine called, 'the Stephen King of gay horror.' You're guaranteed an unforgettable reading experience, one that skillfully blends the hottest romance with the most chilling terror...

(Gay / Dark Fantasy / Shapeshifter / Werewolf / Suspense / Thriller)

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

4.25 stars

Dinner at The Blue Moon Café is a re-release of an older Rick R. Reed work published several years ago. As such, if you know any of Reed's wonderful writing of late, you can see how far he has progressed as a novelist. While this book was most definitely a horror story that includes highly visceral and descriptive passages of genuine werewolves stalking and killing their prey, a romance it is not—at least in the

conventional HEA sense. Instead the suspense and heightened sense of terror the novel provokes in the reader are incredibly real and forceful. These are not your romantic shifters with an alpha seeking a mate; instead it is about a pack that has come to the American northwest to make a new home and have ready hunting grounds available. Unfortunately, one among them is not content hunting animals and, instead, turns its sights on hunting men—specifically gay men who it literally culls from the pack in the dead of night and eviscerates, destroys and, yes, consumes. Did I mention this is a horror story—and a very, very well done one, at that?

Read Sammy's review in its entirety here.

Chappy says

Not really my cup of tea...it dragged a little and I found Thad to be a bit too wishy washy. Always going back and forth with Sam. The paranormal component wasn't very well done either.

CrabbyPatty says

As a horror story, *Dinner at the Blue Moon Cafe* succeeds beautifully. The gruesome murders of gay men in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood are horrifyingly described through the senses of the killer, and scenes with the killer hunting victims are of the "Run, for gawd's sake, RUN!" variety. I don't think I'm giving away too much of the plot to say this story features werewolves, not shifters and alphas and mating and whatnot, just your basic terrifying creature that goes bump in the night ... and then tears someone's lungs out.

Where the story doesn't work for me is in the romance aspect. Thad meets Sam Lupino at his family's Blue Moon Cafe and is charmed by the swarthy Sicilian who makes a mean *arancini di riso con ricott* and later, is an *animal* in bed. They soon begin an intense relationship but only a few weeks into dating, Thad becomes very paranoid about Sam going away for a weekend without telling him. Because we only get Thad's POV throughout, Sam feels very much like a mystery and Thad spends a *lot* of time pondering and obsessing which really slowed down the steady pace created by the suspenseful murder mystery.

As Thad continually worries about Sam, he also vacillates in his feelings for his relatively new friend Jared: "Jared was simple and uncomplicated. He made Thad laugh. He was close to his own age, and in spite of Thad's passionate entanglement with Sam, Jared was sexy as hell." This shift from the friend zone to a tease of a relationship (and back again, more than once) feels forced IMHO.

While I enjoyed the horror / murder / mystery aspect of this story, the romance was not as successful, IMHO. My rating is 3.25 stars.

I received an ARC from Dreamspinner Press in exchange for an honest review.

Review also posted at Gay Book Reviews - check it out!

Giovanni Gelati says

I have been trying to sprinkle in some different things into the mix the last month or so. The paranormal, zombie , fright type novels have been giving me a case of the chills on occasion and I am more of a goose bump, action, adventure, humor, mystery, OCD type guy. So, when I got a hold of *The Blue Moon Café* I thought, hey give it a whirl, how bad can werewolves be. I was happy to say it contained all of the above. Rick R. Reed puts a very unique spin on a plotline that could be become old and tiresome very quick, predators stalking their prey. I really enjoyed the twists and turns the novel took and the different viewpoints he had the characters take. His dialogue is funny, pointed and edgy but not self- effacing. I didn't feel as if I was being spoken at as much as to and included in the story, not kept at arm's length, but right there in the action as the story unfolded. Good crafting and very good execution, there is not much more one could ask for other than that.

The Blue Moon Café was much more than a paranormal novel for me, and quickly it became a very interesting read. Rick R. Reed has a very nice style and sense of humor. I would include this in my Goodreads –to read list- if you don't have it there already. Rick has many novels under his belt, check out his Goodreads Author page and check out his different titles.

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