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# InD'tale

Magazine

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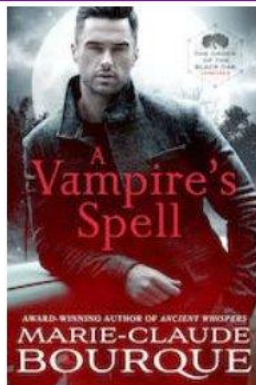
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provide a bond between the two. Refusing to allow their immediate attraction as possible wolf-shifter mates to distract them from their investigation, the two use their supernatural abilities and investigative talents to hunt down a serial killer who may have his sights on the two women Jacob holds dear.

“Tears of the Wolf” by Sharon Buchbinder is a thrilling paranormal sexy page turner! Readers will find many aspects in this supernatural psychological drama to enjoy. The characters are interesting people who display flaws and virtues while living in a world where they are free to accept their two-sided natures. The secondary characters are wonderfully written people readers will enjoy knowing. The love scenes are steamy, arousing, and fun! The bad guys are well-rounded characters, proving to be fleshed out psychos in desperate need of capture. The suspenseful story builds up to a howling climax as it shifts from hair-raising tensions, ghostly interludes, and ends with a biting conclusion. Ms. Buchbinder delivers a compelling and unique spin on cultural beliefs, romantic chemistry, and supernatural beings working together to deliver the killers among them to justice.

Tonya Mathenia



## A Vampire's Spell (The Order of the Black Oak - Vampires #1)

Marie-Claude Bourque



Valerian St-Amand is a centuries-old vampire on an altruistic mission to help new vampires adapt and survive. Maisie Thibodeau is a powerful witch sent by her coven to rein in one of Valerian's more precocious immortals. When the vampire she is tasked with controlling is viciously attacked, Maisie quickly assumes the role of protector. Whoever is hunting Montreal's pureblood undead is in for more than they bargained for when Val and Maisie team up. But in order for this powerful duo to reach their true mated potential, one must risk insanity, and the other must give up everything.

Though this is the first book in this series, it is presumed that the backstory alludes to past events in a companion series. Readers don't necessarily need to read the other series first, but it may offer clarification for the many societal titles. Marie-Claude Bourque's protagonist, Maisie, is well-developed, tenacious, and easy to like. Her neuro-diversity offers lots of fresh possibilities. Unfortunately, the reader is only told of Maisie's non-neurotypical traits, not shown them. The other

characters have less depth and sometimes edge into stereotypes. Rough editing and missing words require a bit of extra work on the part of the reader. Despite those pitfalls, readers may become involved in the carefully drawn out social structures of Ms. Bourque's world-building and invested in the characters. The happily-ever-after is satisfying and the epilogue promises more adventure.

Starling Gray



## The Lonely Vampire

Ann Greyson



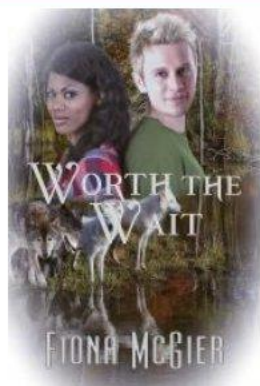
**HORROR:** In 1578, Ileana Vladislava fled Transylvania in the midst of locals eradicating vampires from the region and re-established herself in Newcastle upon Tyne. Now, a hundred years later, Ileana lives a lonely existence in the castle of Wightwick Hall. After seeing the young and beautiful Myrna Ivestar at a public library, Ileana is drawn to her, feeling that something sets her apart from everyone else. Ileana takes a risk and turns Myrna into a vampire. Then there is Claymore, a grudge-bearing werewolf who hunts vampires. With the impending threat against the vampires, the war between good and evil finds a



new battlefield in Newcastle upon Tyne.

A surprisingly quick read despite its almost 400 pages, "The Lonely Vampire" is a simple story about companionship and self-discovery. The plot follows Ileana and Myrna, two women whose lives are missing something, and stays fairly straightforward for the duration of the novel. Despite its slow pace and feel that nothing ever truly happens, its soft, calm tone and ending leaves the reader feeling content. The POV switches between characters, with Myrna's being first-person and secondary characters in the third. While this allows for a more in-depth understanding of the narrative as a whole, it can be jarring and upset the flow of the story. The writing style is also uncomplicated and direct with much telling and light on dialogue. That being said, the characters and their situations are oddly relatable, barring the whole vampire aspect. Overall, "The Lonely Vampire" is a satisfying story about intimacy without being overly sexual and staying true to the classic vampire lore fans have always appreciated.

Arec Rain



## Worth the Wait (Northwest Maine Academy #2)

Fiona McGier



LGBTQIA/M/M: Wolf shifters live complicated lives. The wolf presents itself inside its human when the human is a teen. For this reason, a pack created a school in the forest of Maine. The pack leader is named Diego, but his pack doesn't always make leading easy. Grant has taken a position at the camp and he and his wolf meet another she-wolf. She is a single mom and very reluctant, but Grant's inner wolf is not ready to take no for an answer. They will have a tough time trying to figure out that they are meant to be mates. Then there is Nathan, his wolf meets a she-wolf, and they mate. But in the morning while in their human form, she has no memory of their night together. One thing is for sure, they definitely keep their leader on his toes.

Werewolves and emotions run high is this paranormal romance! One of the highlights of this book

is the beautiful diversity of the characters. There are LGBTQ characters and representation of people of color. The beginning is a little difficult to keep up with if one hasn't read the first book in the series. There is a bit of confusion about who is who and it feels as if it picks up where book one left off. The book is divided into different sections to focus on certain characters, which made the pacing feel stilted and slow. The love scene descriptions are cringe-worthy and might leave readers a little nauseous. Although, if readers like shifters and a beautiful representation of characters, this book is for them!

Amanda Hupe

