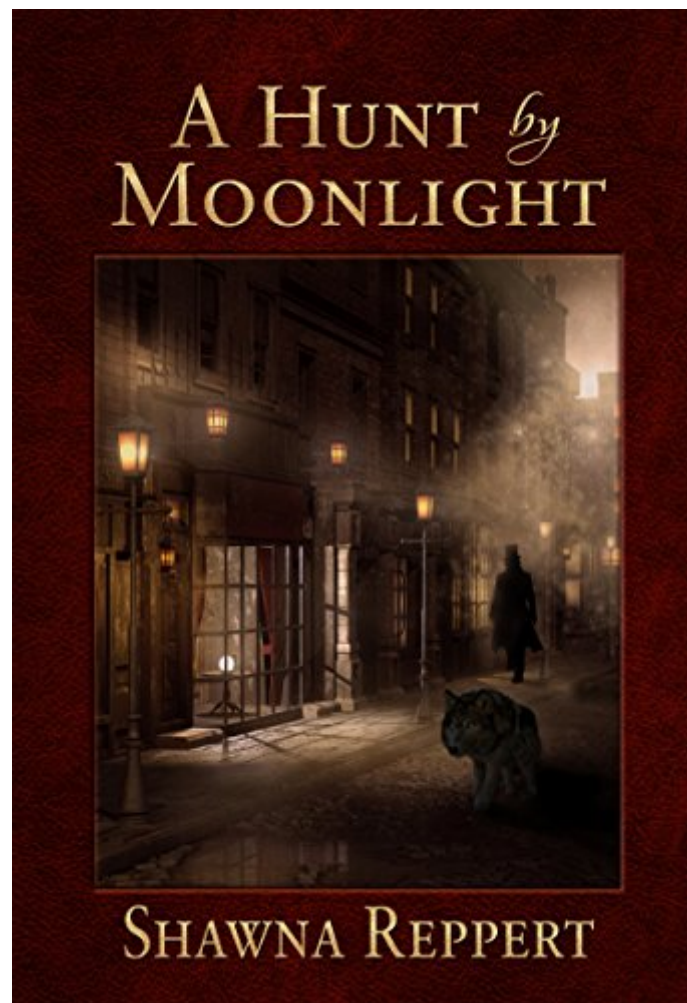




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A Hunt By Moonlight (Werewolves And Gaslight Book 1)



Synopsis

Something more deadly than werewolves is stalking the gaslit streets of London. Inspector Royston Jones, unacknowledged bastard of a high-born family, is determined to track the killer before more young women fall to his knife. But his investigation puts him in the way of a lord who is a clandestine werewolf and the man's fiancée, a woman alchemist with attitude and a secret of her own. Will they destroy Royston to protect their covert identities, or will they join with him to hunt the hunter? By the award-winning author of the Ravensblood series comes the first of the Werewolves and Gaslight mysteries!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Hunt by Moonlight is a wonderfully imagined and articulated adventure in Victorian London. Doctor Death is on the loose, killing young women indiscriminately and terrorizing the city. The only man who can stop him is Inspector Royston Jones, a bastard from an aristocratic family who struggles against the mores of the rigid class-driven society that resents his incursions into their drawing rooms and fancy dress balls. Even lower on the class spectrum than Jones are werewolves, lowest class citizens who may not marry, are denied employment, and make up the

homeless who haunt the dark, gas-lit streets of London. An unlikely bond between a werewolf desperately trying to hide his identity, a woman who defies "proper decorum" and works as an alchemist disguised as a man, and Inspector Jones creates a crime-solving team dedicated to stopping Doctor Death. The writing is brilliant, the details are authentic, and the story is gripping. I wondered, too, if the plight of werewolves in London might be an allegory . . .? I highly recommend this novel. But beware: it is so engrossing you may be staying up way past your bedtime!

Characters definitely get more fleshing out in this novel than in the shorter-than-I-expected short story prequel. This time, the primary PoV is that of Inspector Royston Jones, though some scenes shift to Lord Bandon or to Catherine Fairchild, A.K.A. Charles Foster. All three have admirable qualities as well as fears and biases. The tensions between classes are well-portrayed, as low-born Jones struggles to do his job and protect the city's vulnerable citizens while receiving little support from his superiors and calumny from the press and offended aristocrats. From common constables and shopgirls, to a high-powered barrister (whom I believe the author erroneously refers to as simply an "attorney", though I'd have to check to be 100% sure), many sorts of people play a part. Out of protectiveness for her fiancé's secret, the scientifically brilliant but emotionally not-so-wise Miss Fairchild makes a hurtful threat that Jones finds it understandably difficult to forgive. Still, Bandon's conscience won't let him sit in idle safety while young women are dying horribly and his curse could finally serve a purpose, perhaps even saving a life; gradually he and the Inspector learn to work together, even with his wolf form unable to speak. I don't want to get into spoiler territory, so I'll just say that several suspects emerge who may have done certain wicked things, but is any of them the killer? The world is on the cusp of modernity, with horseless carriages among the nobility, and risky blood transfusions (because they've figured out that there seem to be different kinds of blood, but have no way to distinguish between them!). The writing style is good, with the exception of some missing or extra quotation marks, I believe just one I-should-be-me, one occasion where Bandon is called Brandon, and a couple iffy word choices. Overall, I definitely enjoyed the book, and would be happy to read another in the series. I already have Ms. Reppert's first Raven story buried unread in my Kindle library, though, so I guess it's time to pull it out and read it.

This was excellent! Royston Jones is the classic detective, doing his very best to uphold justice even when he's painfully aware of how unfair his society as a whole can be, when the poor are roundly condemned simply for being poor and the nobility can literally get away with murder; I was

really reminded of an inspector of the author Anne Perry's series. I would have enjoyed this book with just Royston as a protagonist, but throw in a clandestine werewolf--clandestine because their furry curse has caused werewolves to be condemned by Society, to become the lowest class of all--and my attention is guaranteed. Add in a woman who has used her genius to find a way around the restrictions Society has imposed on her gender, and I'm lovin' it!! won't say much about the mystery itself because I don't want to give the plot away. But rest assured that this is indeed a murder mystery, resolved in a plausible fashion, and even if you figure out who the murderer is before the Big Reveal--which I did--Royston's reaction and subsequent actions, everything he went through, kept me reading to the very end. Looking forward to the next book in the Werewolves and Gaslight series!

Imagine that Sherlock Holmes was stalking Jack the Ripper in a slightly steampunk version of Victorian London in which werewolves roamed. That might convey a bit of the flavor of this book. There is plenty of action to keep a reader wanting to turn the page and finding it hard to put down in favor of sleep. The author does an excellent job of conveying the bounds and rules of the different social classes. This is something woven through the book and central to the story. What made the story especially interesting to me was the way that werewolves were portrayed. In other stories with which I am familiar they are shadowy creatures of somewhat mythical proportions, something rarely if at all seen. In this world they are acknowledged to roam the streets at full moon and tolerated to varying degrees by the general population. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and hope that there is develops into a series.

Got this book to read due to the fact that it sounded a bit different from my normal readings. I live on scifi and fantasy normally. To my surprise, I enjoyed this book very much. It was really a mystery, with a small amount of fantasy thrown in. Very well written and kept my attention. Had some very interesting characters. Would recommend to anyone but, especially, those who are looking for something a little different in their reading.

Although this book is very well written, for some reason it didn't really pull me in. Since I have so many books on my kindle it didn't finish it, although I have not deleted it and may very well return to it someday.

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