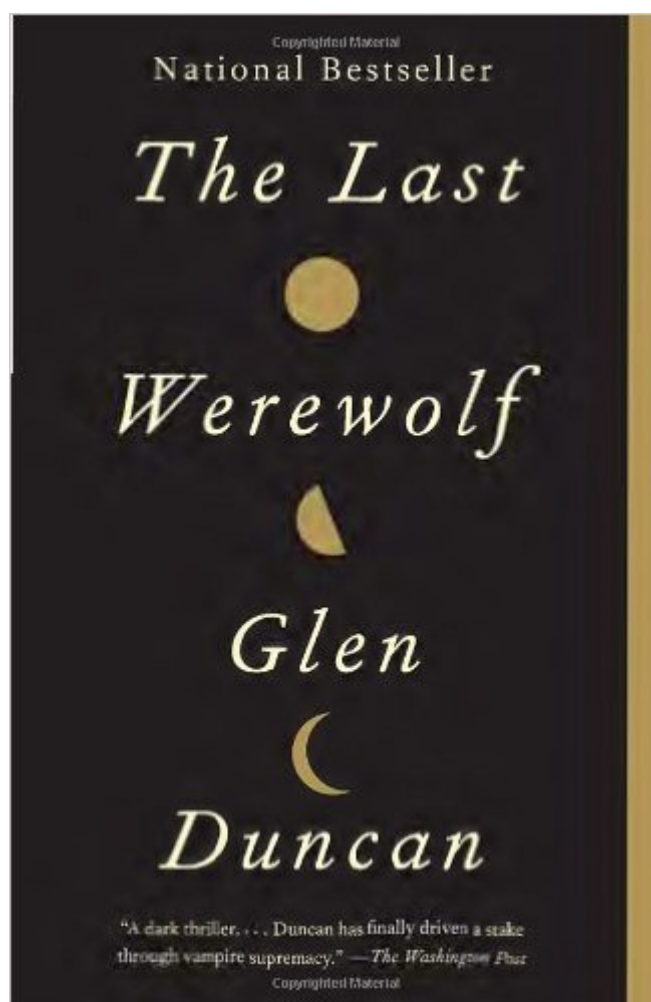


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The Last Werewolf



Synopsis

Glen Duncan delivers a powerful, sexy new version of the werewolf legend, a riveting and monstrous thriller--with a profoundly human heart. Jake Marlowe is the last werewolf. Now just over 200 years old, Jake has an insatiable appreciation for good scotch, books, and the pleasures of the flesh, with a voracious libido and a hunger for meat that drives him crazy each full moon. Although he is physically healthy, Jake has slipped into a deep existential crisis, considering taking his own life and ending a legend that has lived for thousands of years. But there are two dangerous groups--one new, one ancient--with reasons of their own for wanting Jake very much alive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The idea of covering a werewolf story when the beasts are at the brink of extinction is a compelling hook that leads to all sorts of possibilities. Glen Duncan's "The Last Werewolf" posits just such a situation (but you probably got that from the title!) and turns the story into a literary success examining loneliness, regret, inevitability--and ultimately renewed hope. Taking its classic cues, however, from horror literature--Duncan has crafted a thoroughly entertaining and rewarding tale for adults that is as much about thoughts and emotions as it is about carnage and mayhem. Those looking for a quick fix of blood and guts certainly won't be disappointed at the graphic depictions within Duncan's text, but the joys to be had from this incredibly well written tome should not be limited to genre readers. Seriously, this is a story that crosses into the literary realm with its vivid prose and contemplative themes--and miraculously, it balances its sophistication and smarts with

the expected brutality in very complicated and effective ways. The story is told in a self-confessional diary format written by the world's last known werewolf Jacob Marlowe. Marlowe is resigned to his fate and plans to lay down his life for the team of international hunters that have expunged the rest of his brethren. He's lived his life and every day must face the emotional consequences of his actions. It's simply time. But Marlowe is not in full control of his destiny and, even as he readies for death, finds that the course to this final solution may still be impeded by unexpected obstacles. With brutal crimes enacted against his friends, a covert operation within the hunter ranks, an alternative plot arranged by other supernatural entities, and a last ditch chance at fulfillment and happiness--"The Last Werewolf" establishes and maintains a relentless pace. But through it all, Duncan never loses sight that this is a character piece of life or death significance. I love werewolf tales. My contemporary favorite is the Martin Millar saga of a Lonely Werewolf Girl. But where that story embraces the lunacy and comedic potential of beasts in the modern age, Duncan plays it straight. He challenges readers to face the atrocities of his central character and to STILL care for him as an individual. At first, Duncan's style surprised me and I wasn't sure that I'd get hooked into this fundamentally human story. But the flow and pacing starts to establish an almost rhythmic feel and I started devouring the pages with ferocity. Emotionally satisfying and propulsively entertaining, I really enjoyed spending time with Marlowe and facing the world with him. Never having read Glen Duncan before, he is definitely someone I plan to follow and to check out his back catalogue of titles. Give this a chance, even if it isn't your normal genre--Duncan is a seriously good writer! KGHarris, 5/11.

The Last Werewolf is an amazing novel that practically demands to be read in one sitting. I found it simply impossible to put down. With an unbelievable sense of style and an amazing use of language, it examines moral issues ranging from the value of life, the nature of evil, the power of love, the existence of God and the nature of the beast within us all. It does all this in a manner that is unabashedly gory, sometimes sexy, and at all times thoughtful and well considered. We meet Jacob Marlowe as he learns that he has become the last werewolf. We follow him as he prepares to spend his last days before facing certain extinction at the hands of the WOCOP, an organization dedicated to the control of occult phenomena. He is giving up. He's tired of the loneliness of 167 years without love, and is weary of the logistics of life. The author paints such a vivid picture of this character that I was glued to the page simply for the pleasure of his thought processes and his sometimes glib wit. Jacob's journey from a creature fed up with life to a creature ready to embrace it once again was the highlight of this book. Of course not all the action occurs in the head of our

rather suicidal werewolf. The author deftly brings in a world that also holds vampires and other paranormal creatures. They are secondary but play an important role in the intrigue that develops as Jacob learns of the other forces interested in his life and death. We also have quite a unique romance cooking here that will lead to scenes that mix violence and sex and are most definitely not for the squeamish. The inevitable comparisons to Twilight will no doubt be made, but pay them no mind. The werewolves and vampires in Glen Duncan's world bear little resemblance to Bella's friends. The more apt comparison, if you must, would most likely be with Anne Rice's vampire stories. This is a fantastically well written horror tale that takes the classic werewolf myth and brings it to life in a contemporary setting while keeping all its gruesome glory intact. The author also succeeds well in his examination of the classic monster question - how can I accept what I have become? The fine writing, delicately nuanced characters, and the intriguing examinations of evil and human nature all combine to make *The Last Werewolf* an enthusiastic recommendation.

Is anyone else as tired as I am of reading rave reviews of the latest 'literary' supernatural thriller, only to find that the book in question is poorly written, badly plotted, and a general mess? Well, at long last, here is a novel that actually deserves good reviews. *The Last Werewolf* tells the story of Jake Marlowe, 200-year-old philosophically inclined werewolf. Marlowe is filthy rich, knows his scotch, has read everything (he's had 200 years in which to do it), and is great in bed (as all werewolves are). James Bond with brains and a mordant sense of humor. I have to admit, I developed a bit of a crush on Marlowe, and was sorry the book had to end. Unlike the other thrillers I've been bamboozled by good reviews into reading, Duncan actually uses Marlowe's attributes and shortcomings to reflect on the nature of our lives and desires. Marlowe is exquisitely reflective, but still at the mercy of his animal nature (like all of us). He realizes that his very decision to live means that other creatures will inevitably die, but makes the decision to go on living anyway (like all of us). And his deliberations on his dilemma are often genuinely interesting, and quite often funny. I found the ending not quite up to the quality of the rest of the book, but still, *The Last Werewolf* is very much worth reading.

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