

SYNOPSIS

BOOK ONE: Murder, He Howled

Gifted with looks, money and a beautiful cabin in the Colorado mountains, Parker Doyle is a real catch. There's just one problem. He's a best-selling author, a college professor and, oh yeah, a Werewolf. Now, don't panic--he's not that kind of werewolf. In fact, he locks himself up at every full moon, so how bad can he be?

When people connected to him start turning up dead, Parker realizes he's being framed. Now, he's forced to use his curse to solve the crimes. Add a sexy stalker, a deranged fan and a sweet-natured animal lover fascinated with wolves. . . and things get really hairy.

SETTING: Present day in the fictional town of Black Bear Falls, Colorado.

CHARACTERS:

Parker Doyle is a 35-year-old mystery writer...and werewolf. His first novel, Murder, He Howled, was an immediate hit. His second, Bone Voyage, made it to *the New York Times* best seller list, his third, Tooth or Consequences, went to number fifty-five on the list and he's currently working on his fourth, Fangs for the Memories.

On a trip to Romania, he was attacked by what he thought was a rabid wolf. Afterward, an old gypsy explained about his "curse" and taught him how to control his inner wolf. Back home, Parker built a safe room in his cabin for full moon nights to avoid becoming a senseless killer.

July Deveraux is an ancient Werewolf Parker met while doing research in New Orleans. He knows all about the werewolf world including a drastic cure called the Mad Stone.

Blair O'Connor is a 29-year-old vet tech. Smart, sexy and a glass-half-full kind of person, she's straight forward and honest.

Ethan Canfield is Parker's closest human friend. He's a deputy sheriff and a transplanted Texan with a charming drawl.

Lillian Morrell is a 60-year-old retired English teacher and widow. She edits Parker's manuscripts, is a guiding force in his life and has become his family now that his parents have passed.

Logan Black, the main character in Parker's novels, is a Werewolf and Denver cop.

PLOT:

Greg Thomson, a student-enraged over a recent grade, confronts Parker and physically attacks him. The encounter is the talk at the dean's party that night, but since Parker doesn't care for parties, he leaves early to transform for a long run. As he runs through the woods, he sees a man burying a tarp-wrapped body. Frightened by a noise, the man races off in his truck. Parker recognizes the body as Thomson and tracks the truck. Later he returns to the grave and finds a Chicago Bears ball cap which he hopes will provide DNA and lead the police to the killer.

When Thomson's body is found, Parker goes to his friend, Ethan, to tell him of his confrontation with the boy. Eventually, the sheriff arrests another student, but the description tells Parker it's the wrong-man. When the sheriff, Parker's long-time nemesis, interviews him, it's clear Parker may be a suspect.

That weekend, Parker speaks at a mystery writer's conference and meets a woman named Sophia who aggressively comes on to him. He also runs into Richard Dayne, an arrogant mystery writer who fancies himself Parker's ultimate rival. The next morning Dayne is found dead.

Back home, Parker attends a visitation for his deceased student and realizes the house is where he trailed the truck the night he found Thompson's body. He sees a photo of the stepfather wearing a Chicago Bears baseball cap identical to the one he found near the body.

Parker's book tour begins scheduling Dallas, New Orleans, Atlanta and New York. Sophia shows up in Dallas, determined to have sex, and she's shocked and mad when he rejects her. In New Orleans, Parker visits with friend and fellow Were, July Deveraux, then learns two fans he met in Dallas were murdered. In Atlanta, a would-be writer demands Parker

Murder, He Howled-Syn /Steen

read his manuscript, but he respectfully declines. The man goes berserk, shouting death threats, until he's taken away by police, but later released.

On his return home, Parker meets vet tech Blair O'Conner. Attracted, but cautious, he invites her out. Even though he knows he shouldn't fall for her, he's lonely. But that's just one more problem since it appears the murderer of Dayne and the two fans is now stalking him.

Still a suspect in the Thomson murder, Parker plants the idea of going back over the crime scene in Ethan's head—hoping he'll find the overlooked ball cap. Eventually, Ethan does find the cap, and DNA connects it to Thomson's stepfather. He and the boy were arguing, and Thomson tried to choke him to death. The mother came up from behind and hit the boy with a cast iron skillet. The killing was unintentional.

Even though Parker is free of the Thomson murder, he still has a stalker: one that's issuing more deadly threats by the day. After a conversation with July, they devise a simple, but hopefully effective plan to snare the stalker. On the day set to put the plan into action, July unexpectedly arrives in Colorado to help Parker bring the stalker into the open, but he/she is a no show. As soon as they return to Parker's house, he receives a call from Blair asking for help to start her car. When he arrives, they are both surprised by Sophia. In a jealous and murderous rage, she transforms into a werewolf and attacks Blair. Parker transforms and goes fang and claw with her, then takes a wounded Blair back to his cabin and to July who has the Mad Stone. Blair survives but has no real memory of the attack outside the fact that she thought it was a rabid dog. Grateful she doesn't remember; Parker realizes just how dangerous his secret can be to her and vows to cool their relationship. Blair may not understand why he's retreating but she's determined not to let him. Against his better judgment, Parker can't walk away from her. Is love even possible for him and can he live one side of his life while constantly dreading the shadow of the other? While Parker and Blair struggle with their feelings, an old killing and old enemies are on the horizon.

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BOOK TWO: Bone Voyage

Parker Doyle is getting a neighbor on his Colorado mountain top; a high-powdered criminal attorney from Denver, and he's not exactly thrilled. After all, how's a werewolf supposed to keep his secret with a nosy neighbor peeking over the fence? But that's the least of his problems.

When construction unearths two bodies, and one of them turns out to be a supposed old girlfriend of Parker's, the boney finger of murder points directly at him. Now, with the full moon just days away, he's got to keep his paws out of jail and find the real murderer.