

Werewolf Cop

Andrew Klavan

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Though the title might suggest more lighthearted fare, make no mistake, this is a gritty crime novel at heart. Texan Zach “Cowboy” Adams is part of a special government task force whose goal is to bring down Dominic Abend, the head of a far-reaching European crime group. Abend is after something in New York, and Adams and his partner, Martin Goulart, desperately try to catch up as Abend leaves a pile of corpses in his wake. However, all is not well in Adams’s personal life. His boss fears Goulart is corrupt and wants Adams to keep an eye on him, the woman who seduced him into one mistaken affair is set on ruining Adams’s perfect family life, and finally, while following a lead in Germany’s Black Forest, Adams is attacked by a huge wolf, barely escaping with his life.

Klavan is a suspense expert, building slowly through the first half of the book and then setting a rapid, tense pace for the second. He doesn’t shy away from descriptions of gore and horror, from cockroach-infested hallways to werewolves disemboweling people with their claws. The characters are, for the most part, deliciously complex, tethered at either extreme by Adams’s angelic wife, Grace, and the shell of a man who sold his soul to the devil himself. And for all of that, Klavan also infuses the text with plentiful wry humor.

ALLYCE AMIDON (Spring 2015)

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