



Driven

Kelley Armstrong

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Cains are known for being big, brutish and not-too-bright. The mutt clan embodies all the supernatural world's worst stereotypes about werewolves. But not even the Cains deserve to be hunted down and skinned like animals.

When young Davis Cain comes to the Pack for help, Alpha Elena Michaels can't refuse him. It isn't about morality or justice. It's about not letting anyone think they can do this to werewolves and get away with it.

But Elena is also dealing with the Pack's homegrown monster—Malcolm Danvers, onetime enforcer, full-time psycho. Malcolm is now under Elena's control, as part of the most difficult decision she's had to make as leader. But if she has to let Malcolm in, she's going to make full use of him...and the best person to catch monsters is one who knows exactly how they think.

Driven Details

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Author : Kelley Armstrong

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From Reader Review Driven for online ebook

Charlie says

5 Otherworld stars!

So it's no secret that I adore everything and anything Kelley Armstrong writes but as usual this was excellent. It was a real treat for me as a huge Otherworld fan. After I finished reading 13 I was so sad to be leaving my first and most loved urban fantasy series. Thankfully Kelley keeps releasing novellas and short stories so I can get my Otherworld fix.

Not only did I adore this more than many of the novellas set in the Otherworld, I actually enjoyed it more than a few of the main books in the series too, it was that good.

When I first started reading this it was apparent right away that I'd missed something, there were new characters I didn't know and developments of existing characters I'd missed. Clearly there's been a few novellas published after 13 that I've missed. Despite this, it didn't diminish my enjoyment of the story at all.

I don't want to say anything about the plot without spoiling it but this book is a must buy for fans of the series.

I received a review copy of this book from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

? BookAddict La Crimson Femme says

Fabulous new addition to an excellent series. Driven is the latest in the Otherworld Stories. This book does come as a limited edition. This signed edition apparently comes with beautiful illustrations. I lusted after this description and hoped my review request would be approved and net me one of these luscious hardback editions. Unfortunately no. Still, this ebook is a great read, adding another layer to Elena's world.

Sometimes, matching a person the right position will finally make the fit work. Allowing Malcom into the pack is a tough decision for new Alpha Elena Michaels. She hates Malcom for what he has done in the past. With her experience in the shifter world, it is better to be ruthless than kind. In a lot of way, might does equal right, no matter how much Elena is trying to make a change. Not only does she have a pack to protect, she also has a set of precocious twins to defend. Dealing with Malcom is only one of her challenges.

This story seems to be about Malcom and the slaughtering of Cains. It also is about Elena's adjustment as an alpha. Her decisions now carry heavy weight and impact. Her view of how she feels others will respond to her decisions makes her less sure of herself. Through this character and plot driven story, Elena comes to some realizations that are a bit earth shattering for her. Whilst her perception changes, the others are patiently waiting for her epiphany. Each of the secondary characters in this book add their distinctive flavour making this book a rich tale to savour. Clayton is mellowing in his old age as Elena is becoming more vicious. The twins are little adults. They say the darndest things which amuses me to no end.

The plot to this story is an eye for eye. Elena needs to solve the mystery of why a family of good fer nuthin'

are being targeted. The main one standing and calling for help is Davis Cain. He is much smarter than the rest of his male relatives which is not saying much. As the pack investigates and finds more grisly remains, it is becoming quickly apparent there is a vendetta being meted out. It is easy for the readers to surmise the answers and none of them are happy ones. The resolution comes swiftly once Elena's on the trail. This paranormal suspense is recommended for shifter lovers who enjoy the thrill of a hunt.

**provided by NetGalley*

Michelle says

I am a big fan of the Otherworld Series, so when I saw **Driven** on NetGalley I had to put in a request, and I really didn't have much hope of being accepted so when I was I may have done a little happy dance, which my b/f chose not to question ;). **Driven** picks up after the events of Forsaken, and after the cliffhanger we are left with I could not wait to dive into this one and find out what happened, not only with Elena's pack, but also with Malcolm.

The story begins with a meeting that Malcolm arranged, and with a few pack members that Elena takes with her. Malcolm existence has been the bane for the pack,, and this meeting is the final chance for him to become a member again, but Elena isn't going into this meeting blindly, and not only is she ready for anything, she also takes a pretty mean attitude with her.....and I love it.

If you insist on me standing, then I will, but understand that it's only to humor you. And the fact you've had to ask multiple times proves you aren't really Alpha material."
"No," I said. "It proves you aren't really Pack material.

She kicks ass in every single way, she may be a rare female wolf, and being the pack Alpha is ridiculed in the werewolf world, but she takes no prisoners.

Driven was an unputdownable read, I loved getting to visit this world again and catch up with old friends. The twins have grown so much, and I love how they see life. Being werewolves means you can't really keep things a secret from them, and they will openly admit this, if it's to their advantage. I love thier attitudes towards Malcolm and how they shut him down. Elena and Clayton have gone through so much since this series began, and I like how strong they are, and how much they have developed as characters. Elena has done the most changing, she is now pack Alpha and her decisions will have consequences on all. She still doubts herself, and we can see how this affects her when she sees it in her son. **Driven** sees Elena making a lot of decisions, and these involve saving and taking lives. Should she trust the mutt, Davis, when he says his family dead and missing. Is it in the best interest of the pack to actively seek the missing family members out?

Driven was a book that sucked me in, and didn't let go to the very end. I loved every page of this book. The journey taken to get to the end wasn't easy, and Malcolm definitely makes things complicated when it comes to splitting the pack up into several groups. But the question isn't can he be trusted, the question is what is his ulterior motive.

Final Verdict

Driven is a MUST READ for fans of this series. It answers a lot of questions from the previous book, and we finally learn of Malcolm's fate. I think a re-read is in order soon.

Christine says

In the werewolf community, if you are not a member of a pack you are considered a mutt. Mutts are tolerated as long as they keep away from humans and do not draw attention to themselves. If that line is crossed the pack will hunt them down. The Cains have always been considered mutts. They are neither the brightest nor the most law-abiding in their human form but even they do not deserve to be hunted down like animals and skinned alive.

Davis Cain is trying to change the way the pack views his family. He is attending college and has made overtures in the past to interact with Elena's pack. On a visit home he first discovers his family missing and then murdered in the most gruesome fashion. When he comes to the pack for help Elena cannot turn away. Conveniently, Malcolm Danvers has recently returned to Stone Haven and Elena intends to use him fully on this hunt ... it's the only way to make sure his claims of reformation and loyalty are true.

Reading this book took me back to the beginning of the "Otherworld" series and reminded me why I love the Elena/Clay/Jeremy stories so much. As much as I enjoy all the "Otherworld" characters it's the werewolves that pulled me into this series and, while other characters were mentioned or made cameo appearances, this book was most definitely all about the werewolves.

I did have a little problem with one thing in this book and that was the portrayal of Clay and Elena's twins. They are 9 years old in "Driven" and I understand they are exceptionally bright (of course) because they are the product of two werewolves mating ... still ... for my taste, just a little too precocious. Ms. Armstrong does her usual great job of drawing the reader into "Otherworld" where fantastic beings coexist in the world with humans and her choice of making this installment in the series a novella instead of a full length book was a good one. It was just long enough that I could enjoy it (almost in one sitting) and it felt as if she wrote it for her fans, so it did not include a lot of explanations ... just took for granted that fans would know the backstory. I am enjoying her more recent stand-alone books but I do hope Ms. Armstrong continues to give her fans an "Otherworld" tidbit now and again.

Would definitely recommend this to readers of the series. For a first time reader this is not the best choice for starting the series ... find a copy of "Bitten" and start at the beginning.

Thank you to the publisher, Subterranean Press, for making a copy of the ebook available to me at no charge (via Netgalley) in exchange for an honest review.

Ferdy says

Wasn't all that entertained by the generic story, but really enjoyed all the characters, especially all the Malcolm parts, as well as the insight into the Cains.

Darcy says

This is one of my favorite series. I was sad when it ended, so when the author puts out these short stories I make sure to grab the book right away. What's nice with these special editions are the drawings that are included with the book.

I hate Malcolm, so it was interesting to see him integrated in the pack more. I loved seeing Malcolm put in his place over and over again, by Clay, by Elena, by Nick, by Jeremy and most especially by the twins. Nothing like a child to show you how irrelevant you are! It was great to see Malcolm try to be the "boogeyman" to the younger generation, but have them not have a clue how he was.

I felt sorry for Davis Cain, because he seemed like he was a nice guy in a crap family. I was glad that he called in the pack to help him out. While things didn't end the best for the Cains, for Davis he ended up in a good place.

By the end of the book the Pack seems to be in a good place. I hope we get more glimpses in their lives again soon.

Cathy (cathepsut) says

Engaging plot, well written, great level of suspense. Longish novella of 230 pages, so it gets right down to the nitty-gritty, which is a pretty dark tale of some gruesome murders.

The world building could be better. I only read the first four books of the series and it's been a while. So I know who Elena and Clay are and remember the Cabal. The rest is hazy. Armstrong does not give many explanations, so if you don't know the series, you might be a little in the dark.

Regardless, it was hard to put this down, it makes me want to re-start the Otherworld series. There is a lot of pretty meh writing in Urban Fantasy, this is anything but.

I received this free copy from the publisher/author via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review, thank you!

Rachel- Goodbye Borders says

Release date is Jan 31st.

Can I say it was so wonderful to be back in this world?! Most of the gang is here; Elena, Clay, Nick, Vanessa, Malcolm (who rejoins the pack). Some brief scenes with Jeremy, the twins, Reese, Noah, and Karl. Davis may or may not become the newest member of the pack.

So someone is hunting the Cains. For what, we do find out at the end. Someone is hunting werewolves and that makes it Pack business. This is a good start, middle, and end.

I liked how Malcolm kept talking about the "old" ways of doing things in contrast to the "new." Let's say that the "new" is better and more inclusive of other individuals. This series has grown and evolved and I love that.

Some formatting problems with my Kindle (like a sentence missing the first letter in the beginning word-

missing letter would be directly underneath on the next line and broken sentences- half would be there and the other on the next line)

ARC received in exchange for review from Subterranean Press/NetGalley. Thank you!

Jessica ❀ ➤ Silverbow ➤ ❀ Rabid Reads-no-more says

It feels like you can't have an Armstrong book, at least you can't have an OTHERWORLD book, without some lowlife scum either raping someone or having some kind of unhealthy interest in children, and as gratifying as it is to see Elena or Clay (or whoever) kill the perpetrators (slowly and painfully), sometimes I wish we could forgo it altogether . . .

This is not that book. FYI.

After Elena lets Malcolm back into the Pack in a limited capacity (NOT a spoiler, it's in the blurb), she takes advantage of loopholes in Pack protocol to keep him out of the fold--scheduling Meets in tandem with mini vacations/traveling on holidays, etc.--but her actions are a short term solution, and she's reached the point where it's no longer a viable option . . .

So she invites him--with restrictions--to Stonehaven for the next Meet, which is just . . . *so wrong* . . . And they're barely into it when Davis Cain calls asking for help.

He got home from a night out only to discover both his uncle and cousin skinned and strung up on trees in their woods, you see . . .

o.O

You can't be surprised. With the aforementioned raping and child victims, what's a couple of wolves getting skinned alive between friends?

Par. For. The. Course.

Armstrong, you is gruesome.

I feel like I should be used to it by now . . . But I'm not . . .

Anyway, despite the plea for assistance coming from:

1. A mutt.
2. A mutt who trespassed at Stonehaven on a dare.
3. A mutt who trespassed at Stonehaven on a dare, AND dared speak to Logan (who was eight at the time, I think).

Elena decides to *carefully* investigate the situation--can't allow anyone to run around skinning werewolves, mutts or otherwise, can we?

If you want to know what goes down, *why* someone seems to be systematically hunting down the Cains, you'll have to read it yourself, but allow me to say that it is delightfully dark and twisty.

ALSO, for fans of Armstrong's DARKEST POWERS Young Adult series, there's finally a bit of crossover. It's not much, but it felt like laying the foundation for a future story. *wishes and hopes*

Overall, another excellent addition to the OTHERWORLD canon that I highly recommend.

Karl says

This Leather bound edition is number 725 of 1000 signed numbered copies signed by Kelley Armstrong and illustrator Xaviere Daumarie.

Yodamom says

I have followed Clay and Elena from the beginning and loved seeing them in this next stage in their story. It was an action packed, edge of your seat, mystery, romance, with many humorous moments. I love with this pack, they are united and strong even when.... I am really looking forward to see where these characters go, especially the twins. Special, it too tame of a word for these two.

Time has marched on and Elena and Clay's twins are now 9 years old. The pack dynamic has changed. Elena is now Alpha, and Clay her Beta, and the kids are more than average werewolf children. An old nasty wolf with a repulsive history wants to rejoin the pack. Somebody is killing wolves in a revolting way and his power is needed. A certain amount of trust must be given to save the wolves. It could turn out to be their biggest mistake. The mystery is in the why and the who is killing these wolves with such emotion. It is a twisted road with many obstacles and a new direction for the pack.

Changes in a long running series are Important to keep a fresh feeling. Ms. Armstrong has written it and done it well.

Marta Cox says

Finally a story set in this world that brings my favourite characters front and centre. I'm the first to admit that it took me a while to warm up to Elena but as this series has progressed her actions and indeed her growth have really made sense. Add in the delicious although at times animalistic Clay along with regular Pack members and yes I was all set to dive back into this Otherworld story.

Long term fans of this series will know better than to trust Malcolm Danvers as he truly is a self serving killer! Yet here he is requesting to rejoin the Pack even though he clearly has no respect for the new alpha because yes it's Elena the only female werewolf. As if treading carefully around that minefield wasn't enough someone out there is hunting and skinning werewolves! So if someone is behaving monstrously doesn't it kind of make sense to use the Packs very own psychotic monster Malcolm to hunt them down ? Or is that going to be a huge mistake ?

This story had so much going on. Not only does Elena want to protect those she cares about but she also has to let them make their own decisions whether right or wrong . Elena is so protective and it doesn't matter if werewolf or mated to one once you are in her Pack she will fight tooth and claw to save you. Unfortunately she has to allow her Packmates to deal with issues (in this case Malcolm) in ways that make them

comfortable . So yes it's a story set within a story if you will. On one hand the development of the Pack and on the other we have the danger that the hunters pose. If action and drama are what you enjoy then there's plenty of that here. Humour too as Malcolm gets to meet younger werewolves with attitudes that had this reader laughing out loud. I'm guessing that tact and werewolves are definitely not close bed mates ! Best of all though is the growth and development of Clay. Always the fierce wolf with little empathy for others and yet here we see just how fatherhood, love and stability have changed him.

I actually think this does work as a standalone book but if honest would urge my fellow readers to get this series starting with Bitten as I doubt anyone would regret it

I was gifted a copy in exchange for an honest review

Nikki "The Crazie Betty" V. says

I'm surprised I enjoyed this as much as I did given that I had no idea it was a series until I had already read 45% of it. I honestly just figured it was one of those stories that drops you in the middle of what's going on and you have to figure it out as you go. Which actually worked in my opinion. I was able to garner enough information from **Driven** that I felt like I knew enough about the past of the characters to be able to enjoy the read. I won't be going back and reading the previous ones since, well, I totally know what happens. But I would definitely consider continuing on with the story. I'm not usually one for paranormal stories, especially werewolves, but I loved that this book featured a female Alpha! Awesome! There were some great action scenes and I really liked the dynamic between not only the pack, but the other wolves that are one their own. I could totally see this being made into a graphic novel.

Thank you Netgalley for providing me a copy of this story in exchange for an honest review.

Susana says

Arc provided by Subterranean Press through Netgalley

Release Date: January 31st 2016

Continuing my Kelley Armstrong phase _ fifth book in a row but who is counting?_ I was more than willing to start reading this arc.

I don't know what I was expecting _ probably just another short that took place in the Otherworld series _, but I definitely got more than I was expecting...

Let me explain: I've read all the books in the "Women of the Otherworld" series and I've mourned its end, so I wasn't expecting to find out that "the thing" has actually carried on since I've stopped reading it.

This time directed at a more exclusive number of readers...

Yes, from the novels that I've read in the latest Armstrong anthology _some of them also previously edited by Subterranean Press_, it means that this story will probably ONE DAY also be edited in a more generalized way, but until then most Kelley Armstrong fans will probably be stuck waiting.

So, this story, was it worth the read?

Most definitely yes.

Elena and Clay's twins are now nine years old. Karl and Hope are on kid number two. Jeremy and Jaime continue together...

...oh and Malcolm is back. --

Okay, and this is where things get tricky, because most events in this book would make much more sense if I had read the previous Subterranean Press volume untitled "Brazen" _ which I didn't, because TIME is scarce, also because I didn't know that the time-line in these stories was that strict!

So reading this, I found out that a certain womaniser character has actually settled down, and that Malcolm _ yes, the big Bad Wolf _ is trying to get back in the Pack.

The story?

Gruesome as it can get: this time a certain clan of werewolf's is being targeted, and Elena faces one of her biggest challenges as alpha.

It was also nice to see that fatherhood has been good to Clayton: he definitely feels more humane that he did in the initial volumes of the series.

The writing is fluid and to the point as ever, so if you're a fan of the series you're probably going to love this as well.

Carmel (Rabid Reads) says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads.

Kelley Armstrong has a reputation for doing the unexpected, but in all of my years of following the OTHERWORLD STORIES I never would have guessed that Malcolm Danvers would be re-inducted into the American Pack. I genuinely thought that the probability of pigs flying was higher! DRIVEN begins with him meeting Elena in Bulgaria to discuss terms, ends with the unveiling of his true reason for rejoining, and there's a kickass mutt hunt in-between.

This short takes place a couple of months after FORSAKEN, so because the two are closely intertwined it's recommended that you read both. And, although the novella stands well enough on its own, newcomers will definitely miss out on the long running character histories. Malcolm didn't become the nightmare of the werewolf world overnight, and in order to truly appreciate his level of depravity it's important to start from ground zero.

Michaels is my favourite OTHERWORLD narrator, and I loved that she was this title's lead. She's getting more adept in her role as Alpha, and I really enjoyed how she handled Danvers senior. Wolves have a long life span, and the way the Pack is run has drastically changed since Malcolm was an enforcer, so it was fun watching him date himself, and I took real pleasure in the fact that his infamy was lost on the younger generation.

The Cain family needs no introduction because quite frankly they wrote the book on mutt bad behaviour. The plot surrounding the skinned weres was quite good, and I liked that Armstrong incorporated a few little bonuses that her rabid fans are sure to appreciate. Namely, the twins had a pretty awesome scene with

Danvers, and Nick and Vanessa got a slice of a HEA which was nice. Davis also had one chapter from his POV—future Pack member?

I wolfed down DRIVEN in one gulp!
