



Howling III

Gary Brandner

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This is it! Gary Brandner's famous book, "THE HOWLING III." A must read!

"If you haven't read Gary Brandner you're missing a treat."

~ STEPHEN KING

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They are man. And they are beast.

Once again they stalk the night, eyes aflame, teeth flashing in vengeance.

Malcolm is the young one.

He must choose between the familiar way of the human and the seductive howling of the wolf.

Those who share his blood want to make him one of them.

Those who fear him want him dead.

Only one woman and one man want to help him.

Even though they can't believe their ears. Or their eyes.

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Don't forget to check out:

THE HOWLING

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THE HOWLING II

Howling III Details

Date : Published August 12th 1985 by Fawcett

ISBN : 9780449128343

Author : Gary Brandner

Format : Mass Market Paperback 256 pages

Genre : Horror, Shapeshifters, Werewolves, Fiction, Fantasy, Supernatural

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From Reader Review Howling III for online ebook

Thomas Strömquist says

The final part of the Howling trilogy does not belong really with the others - it's not exactly "Season of the Witch" following Mikael M's exploits in the first two Halloween's, but it does give a similar non fitting feeling. At first glance, the story, about one of the Drago kids that was lost following the fire and coming into the age of "the changes" should fit in between the first two parts, since it starts a year or so after the fire (while part 2 was three years after). But then you realize that certain events that are referred to are described a bit differently than in the first two parts and so we're looking at some story revisionism here - begging the question if this was meant to be a re-boot and the start of a new direction with more books to follow rather than being any kind of concluding part of a trilogy. Because that it is not and the first two books stand totally by themselves without this one.

That in itself is of course not a reason to skip this one, but the fact that it's not as good as the first two may be. I'll give this one a weak 3 actually, it's worth your while, but not as interesting I thought. The middle part is terribly slow (and certainly for a short book) and still, when going into the conclusion, the author just gathers up all the characters, dumps them in one place and.... we're done.

Craig "NEEDS MORE DAMN TIME TO READ !!!!" says

A bit different to the other books in the series, more of a singular tale of a young lad with lycanthropy and what happens during his 'journey'. Still a good read though with some genuine surprises and good old werewolf action.

Pamela says

Actually 3 1/2. I read the first two books years ago, in the 80s, but never this third book. So I got it on Kindle and read it. Kind of disappointed. Especially with the ending, as if the author was rushed to finished it and added something very tripe to me.

Rachel Kolodziej says

I am shocked that this book has 3 and 4 star reviews. Apparently, book 3 was meant as a reboot to a series that never materialized which explains the inconsistencies from the first 2 novels. This book, unfortunately, has all of the problems from the first two books without any of the interesting mythology or suspense to keep it interesting enough to keep reading. The characters are still shallow and just caricatures more than fully actualized characters. None of them are particularly likable. The two main characters are supposed to be love interests but they act like they hate each other. And not in a cute romcom kind of way. The story is slow and mostly uninteresting. The best and most interesting character to come out of the series is Jones and he isn't in enough of the book to save it. Overall, it's boring, has no point and the characters are unlikeable.

Nick says

The final book in The Howling Trilogy gets 4 stars from me and makes this the best werewolf series of books (not that I have read any other series!).

Having said that, this book is part of the Trilogy in name only and it can be read separately from the first 2 books. This was first published in 1985, 6 years after part 2 and 4 years after the film made in 1981. Brandner has written a re-boot which changes what happened in the 2 previous books. This book is set between 1 and 2 but the events in 1 are described differently. It is a sequel to an imaginary part 1 not the one that he wrote. If Brandner had written a 4th book, he could have told a prequel story which fits with this new version.

The book has all new characters and follows the life of a boy growing up as he struggles with his werewolf side. Teen Wolf I hear you say? Not quite. More horror and gore. The humans and werewolves are as nasty as each other in their pursuit of the boy. He has to make a decision about his relationship with his human companions and his werewolf pack. Is he a human? Is he a werewolf? The two do not live together in harmony. Or can they? Where does his loyalty lay?

I enjoyed this final chapter in the werewolf story Brandner created. A great horror read. A great Trilogy.

Tobin Elliott says

This one is interesting. Brandner decides to not even mention Karyn or any of the major players from the first two novels and instead begins a new and interesting alternate look into the world he created. From what I can understand, this story likely plays out roughly at the same time as the second novel.

He also, in dumping Karyn, loses his perennial damsel in distress, which isn't a bad thing.

In fact, my only issue with this one is the same as what some of the other reviewers have stated: the ending seems rushed.

This novel ran about 50 pages longer than the other two, and it also felt like the author was setting up an entirely new direction for future books. Then, within a few short pages, all that changed. Which is disappointing.

I'm actually bummed there are no more books in this series.

BookLoversLife says

I actually liked this one the best out of the trilogy! Review to come.

Chris says

Strange to say that I agree with the reviewer who said that this was the best of the three books. I say strange, because it isn't really a part 3 of the story but a different story all together. Howling III is a coming of age story for a lycanthrope boy where the real villains are the humans. I don't know if it is 3 1/2 or 4 stars---I can say that it was fun and I read it straight through to the finish in one day and it was exactly the type of 80's style horror that I thought it would be.

If you liked the first two parts or you like the genre, or you just like werewolves, you will enjoy this book. You really don't even need to read the first two---which do have continuous storyline, to read this one.

John says

Though technically the third in a trilogy, THE HOWLING III gives us new characters, a stand-alone plot, and a heavily re-imagined mythology. I'm used to seeing movies that tromp all over the author's original vision, but this may be the first time I've seen an author do it to himself.

Here's what Wikipedia has to say about it:

1. At the end of the original 1977 novel, the village of Drago is burned down after one of the book's characters throws a lit torch at a group of werewolves and it accidentally ignites the surrounding woodland, sweeping through the area and destroying the town. In The Howling III novel, the fire is started deliberately by the people from the neighbouring village of Pinyon who want to rid the area of werewolves. They lock some of the residents of Drago in a barn and purposely set fire to it, burning the town along with it.
2. The first two books are set in the mid-late 1970s (which is the time they were written and published), as specified by cultural information given (such as the television shows on at the time). The Howling III is clearly set in the mid 1980s, which contradicts the previously established time when Drago was burned down and now moves the event to the 1980s.
3. The werewolves in the first two novels were described as completely wolf-like, but the werewolves featured in The Howling III are more anthropomorphic (like the werewolves from the 1981 film). They can walk on their hind legs and are over seven feet tall.
4. The werewolves from the first two novels were only able to change at night time after the sun had gone down (both the first and second novels specifically mention this), whereas the werewolves in The Howling III can change at will at any time of the day.

And I think there may be a couple of differences that Wikipedia missed. For example, THE HOWLING III seems to suggest that the character from the first book received his silver bullets from the owner of an occult bookshop instead of from a gun store.

All discrepancies aside, THE HOWLING III is a decent enough novel that reads like a straight-to-video horror film. Brandner's characters are surprisingly three-dimensional, but the plot is often difficult to buy into. For example, would a hospital administrator really consent to sending an underage patient to some unknown location for unknown treatment? (This same underage patient later has sex with a 130-year-old werewolf. Holy statutory rape, Batman! That's almost as bad as Angel and Buffy...) And would a carnival owner really fail to show any interest in how a young boy can so convincingly transform himself into an animal without the use of any obvious aids or props? Would a murderer really return to the scene of his

crime just to pick up a set of fresh clothes?

You can choose either to nitpick this book to death, or just simply go along with it and enjoy it for what it is. Personally, I suggest the latter. You may not be particularly impressed, but you'll definitely be entertained.

Don James says

A very good Read .

This book was very enlightening. But I did not like the ending. I need more. Is there a Howling 4.

Alicia Utter says

Rating: 8/10

Pages: 256

This is a great ending to the trilogy. Malcolm is a great character who doesn't know what is happening to him. It is definitely old school tech, angering a beast in to a werewolf. But it was a fun way to see how werewolves are going to fit into society in the eighties. I enjoyed watching him grow and be very torn on how to behave.

This was a great ending to the trilogy I managed to rip through in a week.

Location: Kindle

Chris says

Best book of The Howling Trilogy. The storytelling and writing are far better than the previous two novels in the set. Mr. Brandner obviously honed his skills and matured as a writer. The ending was rather abrupt and unsatisfying though.

Peter says

Here you'll find some new aspects in the Howling saga (the burning of the village Drago, its survivors and Derak, their leader) and learn to follow a new character (Malcolm) and its development. I sometimes missed Karyn and the old characters. The book read quite quickly and had some compelling moments. Overall I liked the former two books a bit better. There are some interesting sidelines on medicine (experiments on humans) and carnival (the animal man). The problem of a werewolf in modern society is also critically shown. Good story masterly told but not as gripping as the first two parts. Must read though if you read the other installments.

Latasha says

I did not finish this book

what I did read was ok but not enough that I cared if I finished it or not.

Reed Roberts says

This third installment by Gray Brander, *The Howling III*, is a nice different take on the previous two. Completely different story line, which I like. The story follows a young boy who must decide what he wants to do with his life, accepting his beastly nature, or his human one. He come comes across characters both good and bad in his travels as he grows into a young man.
