



How Gods Bleed

Shane Porteous

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The werewolf king Gorgoza is dead leaving the west in turmoil. With the king's passing it is only a matter of time before someone has claimed the western empire for themselves, leaving the east ripe for invasion. Against the werewolf hordes no eastern kingdom stands a chance for survival.

But all hope is not yet lost for there may be a way to destroy the monsters of the west. Such a chance comes from the most unlikely of sources, Cada Varl the Immortal, the being responsible for the creation of the werewolves.

Accompanied by 6 of the greatest warriors of the great warrior society of Helluv Cada Varl journeys into the west in the hopes of saving the east from utter destruction. Facing impossible odds the group must journey across lands that will offer nothing to them but misery and death

How Gods Bleed Details

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From Reader Review How Gods Bleed for online ebook

Daniel Rutger says

Over the last several years readers have been confronted with countless new ebooks. 99 percent of which are little more than generic stories or blatant knock-offs of popular paperbacks. But once in a blue moon a story comes along that is completely different, something that can honestly be called original, How Gods Bleed is just such a book. To describe this book as anything but unique would be a terrible lie. It takes werewolves to a place that they have never been taken to. Very few, if any authors can claim to have done such a thing.

The thing is, not only is this book different in premise, but different in execution. It takes the idea of the quest and shapes it in a way that I have never seen before. The stale premise of good v.s evil is thrown completely out of the window. It deals with ideas of humanity and takes the reader into an unique and complicated world.

What I loved the most about this story is just how important every single character is. The author ensures that none of them are generic or helpless. I was constantly surprised again and again by the depth and personality traits of the characters. That's the great thing about this book, the reader is left guessing with every turn of the page.

Keeping this in mind I don't want to spoil any of the many surprises you will find in How Gods Bleed. But I will say that How Gods Bleed goes beyond merely being 'just another werewolf story' and becomes an experience that will be remembered long after it is read.

Nick Gono says

have only recently started to embrace ebooks and ereaders, to be honest a lot of the stuff I have read recently has been garbage. With that said I am very happy that I gave this book a chance, because it is brilliant. I can't really find the right way to describe this story. Imagine if Akira Toriyama writer of Dragon Ball Z and Kentaro Miura writer of Berserk got together and decided to write a novel about werewolves. That's the closest I can come to describing this properly and even that doesn't feel quite right. To non manga/comic book readers out there, please don't read my words and think this book is comical or cartoony, because it isn't. It is very well crafted and complicated.

The origin story about how Cada Varl lost his humanity and was attacked by wolves, effectively giving birth to the werewolf was very cool and instantly got me intrigued in the story. From there the story moves at a great pace and with every turn of the page I was left guessing but not frustrated as to where the story was heading. That is one of the many strengths of this book, the fact that it isn't obvious or predictable what is happening or where the story is heading.

This is a very different read and I enjoyed it immensely. How Gods Bleed is not a standard literary affair and at the same time isn't a trashy read by any means. The author has not only written a very original werewolf tale he has written a great one. If you like originality, if you love it when an author thinks outside of the box than chances are you will really enjoy this book.

Kim Staffus says

Everyone is entitled to their opinion and people have a right to disagree with that opinion. A number of these reviews rather quite annoy me and to be honest I seriously question if several of them have actually read How Gods Bleed in full. To call How Gods Bleed a “Lord of the Rings” styled story is like comparing Rihanna with Ozzy Osbourne, they’re both singers. In the same vain Lord of the Rings and How Gods Bleed are both fantasy stories, that’s where the similarities stop.

How Gods Bleed is not a conventional story, it doesn’t adhere to the traditions and clichés of any genre. Shane Porteous, the author doesn’t write with convention formulas, but as far as I am concerned that only makes this already unique story even more special. It is clear that he did not go to a writing school and learn the “right” way how to write, he wrote from the heart and I for one praise him for it. This prevents How Gods Bleed from being cold and stale; he does use highly imaginative descriptions but isn’t that a good thing with a book such as this?

This isn’t a story about good v.s evil, you could hardly call a king who publicly tortures his detractors, forces his people to wear a single cloth in the dead of winter and enjoys devouring the flesh of werewolves a good guy. He is called the man monsters fear; he didn’t get such a title from being a good guy.

How Gods Bleed is a struggle between two sides, which for reasons neither can control, cannot continue to co-exist. It is a testament to the need for survival and the importance of keeping one’s identity.

Let me lay it out for you like this, if you like convention, you won’t find it in this book, so read something else. However if you want an original story that hasn’t been done to death, then trust me you’ll love this.

Travis Ludvigson says

This has to be the most original werewolf story that I have read. Shane Porteous has taken this creature of myth and made it into something much greater. Porteous brilliantly imagined the werewolves boosting their already formidable strength and speed with unique weapons and armor previously unseen in literature. Additionally, the introduction of Aneeku and his ilk provide another exciting twist to the idea of the traditional werewolf.

The history of his world was fantastic, and the Helluvan warriors were both individually and collectively impressive in their tactics and demeanor. The Helluvans operate with the skill and precision of a special forces unit and never shirk from a challenge.

Cada Varl, the immortal, brings a complex persona to the story, in that he is simultaneously both hero and villain; possessed of unimaginable power, and yet robbed of humanity. His character was a living embodiment of the history of this imagined world, and brought sorrow, danger and excitement to the story.

How Gods Bleed is a unique work that offers a bold new chapter in werewolf lore.

Karly Lizobe says

I have never read anything like this. How Gods Bleed easily could be considered the most original werewolf story ever told. It's completely crazy but in the best possible way. The story is bold and ambitious and Shane Porteous has definitely earned my respect for telling such a unique story. This isn't thinking outside of the box, it is dousing the box in petrol and setting it on fire.

How Gods Bleed is the very embodiment of what a great independent release should be. It ignores the boundaries of tradition and genre, forming a tale that is truly all its own. The story sets out in a typical fantasy way, a group of warriors head into enemy lands to save their homeland from destruction. But once within those lands an unforeseeable twist sets the story on its head and leaves the reader guessing the entire time.

What I really liked about this story is the idea of heading into the unknown. It allows the story to remain fresh and keeps the reader eager to read onward. Not once do you leave the side of the protagonists, you only know what they do and are left as perplexed as they are. At the same time I never once found myself frustrated and remained intrigued the entire time. This keeps the twists fresh because you never see them coming.

The action scenes are insane and over the top, but are incredibly entertaining and a lot of fun to read. They play a huge part in the story and conflict makes up the largest part of this book. I found myself getting completely immersed inside the duels, which are described in great detail. That is the really interesting thing about this novel, there is a great emphasis on action and conflict but the plot remains refreshing and complex.

It was really interesting that this novel could be so over the top and yet thought provoking at the same time. This isn't a conflict between good and evil, but rather a struggle for existence and an exploration of identity. At its core, How Gods Bleed explores themes of humanity and its true value, set in a world of monsters, men and immortals.

Rick F. says

"The werewolf king Gorgoza is dead leaving the west in turmoil. With the king's passing it is only a matter of time before someone has claimed the western empire for themselves, leaving the east ripe for invasion. Against the werewolf hordes no eastern kingdom stands a chance for survival.

But all hope is not yet lost for there may be a way to destroy the monsters of the west. Such a chance comes from the most unlikely of sources, Cada Varl the Immortal, the being responsible for the creation of the werewolves."

What a unique plot!! In the hands of a less capable writer, such a premise could have fallen into a comic book read (Nothing against comic books- love em myself!- but not as novels) yet with the superb writing skills of Shane Porteous, I am so pleased to say, the plot works, and works so very well!

Cada Varl the Immortal is a fully realized character, and the anchor of the book. The character, while certainly not your typical literary protagonist is in very capable hands, as Mr. Porteous has the talent to make

even the most fantastic of characters resonate with the reader.

The plot, twists, and supporting cast of characters are all deftly handled and very addicting to the reader.

While this is certainly fantasy and horror, to label HOW GODS BLEED as a Horror-Fantasy is unfair- this is quite simply a very well written novel, which will appeal to those who enjoy great storytelling!

A JAMES MASON COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB MUST READ

RICK FRIEDMAN

FOUNDER

THE JAMES MASON COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

Lee Hiure says

In this day and age it seems almost everyone is writing a story about either vampires or werewolves. This explosion of authors can generally be placed into one of two groups. The twilight influenced writer who portrays werewolves as handsome but misunderstood things. The other group seems hell bent on returning the werewolf to the feared monster of the night that tradition dictates. Either way just about all werewolf stories today fall into one of these moulds. How Gods Bleed however not only stays away from these pitfalls but blows them both away like a tornado upon two houses made of straw.

How Gods Bleed is a tremendously unique story whose originality is so powerful it is difficult to place it in any one genre. This book really is the destroyer of clichés because it has elements of horror, fantasy and action but ignores the limitations of these genres with astonishing ease. I feel almost a little ashamed in using a cliché to describe this story, but Shane Porteous the author has perfected the recreation of the wheel.

Cada Varl is perhaps one of the most original characters ever written into a werewolf story. He is a warrior who has lost his humanity and gained astonishing powers because of it. But what really makes him far more memorable than many literary protagonists is in spite of how fantastical of a character he is, he resonates with the reader as well as any character I have ever read about from any genre.

Cada Varl is not alone in being memorable as the cast of supporting characters are tremendously interesting in their own way. From Granzool, the king of Helluv, whose brutality and darkness is so great that even werewolves are afraid of him, to Aneeku the werewolf warrior who is considered an outcast amongst his fellow monsters.

One of the many strength's of this story is the twists that the reader will never see coming. Shane Porteous effortlessly moulds the reader into believing his novel will be heading one way, only to turn his created world upside down in a heartbeat.

There are many battles and duels that take place in this story, but unlike the repetitive battles ripped from the pages of history that a lot of fantasy stories use the battles and duels of How Gods Bleed are unique and easily remembered. The duels that Cada Varl and his enemies fight are indeed over the top but they are incredibly entertaining, strengthened even more so by the attention to detail that not once broke the tension or urgency of the duels.

There is much more that I could praise, such as the mythology, which by itself is unbelievably entertaining

and original. But I will simply end by ensuring you that if you read this book you will discover a story that is as original as it is superb.

Matthew Smithon says

I got myself a copy of this, because I wanted to read something similar to Mathion. With that said I was a little worried this would be a knock off after reading the introduction. However I am very happy to say that the two books couldn't be more different. Yes they have a similar premise but the difference in their execution is like fire and ice.

How Gods Bleed is like no other werewolf story I have read, honestly I cannot think of one remotely like this. It definitely isn't a paranormal romance; it isn't really a horror story (although at times it is very bloody and violent.) It is a dark fantasy, but isn't bound by the rules of such a genre.

Look I have to admit I love tradition, I love the classic tale of good vs evil. The morale hero defeats the overwhelming villain is something that I never get tired of. Frankly that is my comfort zone and I am saddened that so many authors try to rewrite the rules of fantasy. That is because most authors fail miserably. How Gods Bleed on the other hand not only succeeds but excels brilliantly at being alternative.

Would I want an entire bookshelf worth of How Gods Bleed? No, but as a one off How Gods Bleed is a breath of fresh air and a fantastic read. This book amazed me by being so radically different and yet incredibly satisfying.

Mario Ebbwa says

Wow, I don't even know how to describe this book. It is incredibly original and very well written. I went into this expecting a more typical fantasy story but with werewolves. But I am very glad to say this is anything but conventional. From the very first word I was greatly intrigued by the story. The pace really hits the ground running and kept me guessing the entire time. Definitely a memorable read, check this out if you are looking for something different.

Huw Evans says

My first foray into lycanthropy has been intriguing. An Immortal and six escorts are sent into the West to investigate the death of the Werewolf king and his usurpation and the Immortal wishes to give his life to reverse the devastation he has unwittingly released on the world. The plot is fascinating, fantastic in the best possible way and the description of the territory and the action scenes is dense and prolonged. The lead characters are sufficiently taciturn to reveal little about themselves other than by there actions, unless it is a first person backfill. I do think that the overall presentation would benefit from third party editing because certain word choices are either highly imaginatiive or homonymous and can jar from the overall smoothness of the writing. It can be read as a stand-alone or as the foundation of a series - it seems apparent that darker things yet are afoot.

A Voracious Reader (a.k.a. Carol) says

Thousands of years after Cada Varl unwittingly sired the vicious werewolves and became an immortal he believes he has found a way to destroy them all. The way is dangerous, so he travels into the heart of werewolf territory with six of the finest warriors from the country of Helluv and hopes he can carry out his plan before the werewolves figure out what he is doing.

First, the concept of this story is sound and I liked it. It is what I refer to as a ‘Lord of the Rings’-type story where someone or several people set out on a quest or mission in order to save or protect the world at large. I like to read about the journey, the hardships conquered, the friendships formed and the battles that must be fought.

However, the writing needs some heavy editing. Punctuation is missing, paragraphs sometimes were two pages or more long and sentences were awkwardly worded or stilted.

This would be a wonderful story if it had a lot of polishing and fine-tuning done to it.

Free from Smashwords.

C.V. Hunt says

First off, I will not give this any star rating, because I didn’t finish it. I gave How Gods Bleed plenty of time to catch my attention and draw me in, and gave up after reading 66% of it on my Kindle.

I jumped at the chance to read this after seeing the word werewolf, but quickly found out that it was more of a Lord Of The Rings/Fantasy/Exploring/Adventure and not the Horror/Blood/Guts/Terror that I usually read. I gave it a chance anyway, knowing that I didn’t like The Lord Of The Rings books, (I’m sure to never hear the end of that.) but still found myself trying to drag myself through this story, hoping that the werewolves would capture my attention. Don’t get me completely wrong, I like action/fantasy movies, but I can never get into the books.

The story line is basic enough. Cada Varl is an Immortal, and he holds the key to the complete destruction of the werewolf race. He asks for the help from a human society to track down what he needs to complete this task. What follows is months of tromping through the wilderness, battling stray werewolves, and the most awkward silent treatment amongst a group of seven people I’ve ever encountered.

I’m not a huge talker myself, but this group doesn’t have much dialog, and when it does it’s mysteriously missing punctuation. Not just a few periods or commas, every line of dialogue when attributed to a speaker is missing the ending punctuation. I’m not sure if this was intentional, or an oversight of the author, but none-the-less baffling. At one point the book seemed to be missing several pages, and I felt that I might have lost some important information there. Along with and overabundance of repetitive sentence starts, I found myself wanting to edit this book more than read it.

The book is certainly action packed, with whole chapters written showing move by move through a battle scene, but it was just too much for me. Every strike between opposites was painfully narrated out, not only through every second, but the attacks were broken down into the ten things that were happening in the battle in a nanosecond.

I'd say overall this book just wasn't meant for me, but with a good editing, there is a crowd of action/fantasy fans out there that would enjoy it. This book has great potential if it was executed properly.

Ben Tammu says

I absolutely loved this novel, it was such a unique story and so well written and executed. The only other novel I can think of that has a similar story is Mathion: Book One of the Mavonduri Trilogy. But where Mathion is a very traditional story with a new twist, How Gods Bleed is the very epitome of the brilliance that can be achieved when a writer thinks outside of the box.

While the mythology of How Gods Bleed is some of the best that I have ever read or heard of it is far more driven by its characters, all of which are immensely interesting and memorable. Cada Varl the Immortal, the main character of this amazing story is not your typical hero of the piece, at the same time he isn't the typical tragic character either. He is flawlessly formed over the course of the story making the reader invested in his plight more and more with every turn of the page.

How Gods Bleed has elements of fantasy, horror and action genres, but is not bound by the traditions of any of these genres, transcending effortlessly to portray its own unique story. It is almost inconceivable that someone could take the werewolf, a creature who has had so many stories written about it and write something extremely original and yet Shane Porteous has done just that.

I don't want to talk on behalf of other readers but I honestly believe that this story is done so well that both hardcore werewolf fans and non-fans will enjoy this story. The werewolf fans can see the werewolf in a way that they would have never seen before and the non-fans can enjoy the story because it is not the typical werewolf tale.

And best of all this ebook is completely free, that's right you heard me. You don't have to pay a single cent for it. I only add this comment because I think this story is so superb and deserves to be read!

Jeff Shanley says

"How Gods Bleed" is a testament to the unlimited potential of werewolves in fantasy literature. Shane Porteous's use of imagery and detail makes this free ebook well worth the read, and captivates the reader every time the page is turned. Cada Varl is a compelling protagonist; vague, dark, brooding and very well written.

While I might nitpick at some grammatical errors, I have very few complaints for "HGB" and truly enjoyed reading this book. I intend to write a more thorough review but for now I will say that "How Gods Bleed"

takes werewolf mythology to a gleefully dark place where evil and good clash epically and gloriously.

Midu Hadi says

Loved this book!

the book is about people belonging to a city that is the first line of defense for humans. If the werewolves ever tried to take over the human empire, this would be where the first battle would take place. Naturally, the people living in such a place have to be extraordinary-always alert and ready to defend. Add to that a king who would do anything to ensure his people's survival and warriors who worship him. Could it be more awesome?Yes, it can. The king not only wants to win every war, he also plans to make the werewolves fear him and his warriors. The tricks and maneuvers that the king uses to instill fear in the werewolves are just.. wow! Then there is Cada Varl- the coolest immortal you'll ever read about. He's the best and yet he never gloats but just goes on being his rockin' self! And of course, the 6 Helluvan warriors (poor 7th best warrior) were just that..one helluva adventure!
