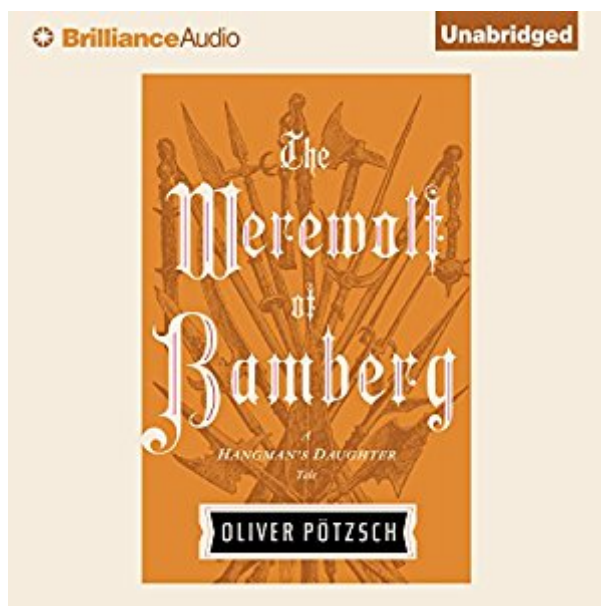


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The Werewolf Of Bamberg: The Hangman's Daughter, Book 5



Synopsis

In 1668, hangman Jakob Kuisl, his daughter Magdalena, and her husband Simon are traveling to the town of Bamberg. But what was planned as a family vacation soon becomes a nightmare: there is a murderer in Bamberg leaving the severed limbs of victims in the trash outside the city. When rumors quickly spread that the murders are the work of a werewolf, Jakob Kuisl must prove the superstition wrong and embark on a search for the "devil of Bamberg". This thrilling fifth entry in Oliver Pötzsch's Hangman's Daughter series follows the continuing adventures and mysteries that surround the Kuisl family.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Werewolf of Bamberg" is a much more enjoyable "Hangman's Daughter" tale than the last couple. Pötzsch has returned to making the culture of historic Germany a central character and plot point in the story, which was always the best thing about the series in my mind. He also de-emphasized the character of Simon (who never seems to *grow* or *mature* as a person, despite being much older, married, and with 2 kids) in favor of the more intriguing and complex Jakob Kuisl. Jakob's character continues to evolve (he's older and showing it physically and emotionally) while adding additional details (in this case, critical to the book) about his fascinating background. The story twists and turns were far less predictable than previous entries; while I was able to guess which characters had a hidden secret, I was wrong about every single one of them in terms of the secret itself until nearly the end. Series usually get stale by the fifth entry, but The

Werewolf of Bamberg has breathed new life into this series.J.Ja

. . . and is less than willing to mend family ties with his brother Bartholomäus Kuisl, the hangman of Bamberg, with whom older brother Jacob has been estranged, lo, these forty years. Our Schongau hangman nevertheless takes his daughters Magdalena and Barbara, grandsons Peter and Paul, and Magdalena's husband Simon Fronwieser with him to Bamberg to attend the wedding of his younger brother to Katharina, daughter of prominent clerk Hieronymus Hauser. Bamberg forty years before had been the scene of an intense witch hunt that eventually brought about a thousand citizens to burning or beheading, and the disappearance of several citizens over a few days' time, along with recovery of mutilated bodies and body parts, give rise to the strong possibility that this search for a werewolf will have a similar outcome if the mystery is not solved soon. All Potzsch fans will enjoy anticipating the clever search in the well-constructed mystery as well as the detailed depiction of life in 17th Century Germany. Science, superstition, ambition, revenge, and sleuthing all mix together as Jacob blunders, actors proclaim, Bartl blusters, and Magdalena manages, all the while Simon proves he's wiser than Jacob gives him credit. Pleasurable Potzsch!

Good escape fiction. It's long and sometimes the reader may wonder where the story is going through 600 pages! But, I've read the other hangman series and had an idea of how the story would play out generally. It's a fun read, though it's somewhat gruesome in places. I thought many times while reading this book that I am ever so thankful to not have lived in those times and places! Some descriptions of streets and the moat and the river are sickening to think about.

This is the first book I have read in the Hangman's Daughter Series (even though it is fifth in the lineup)! I was caught by the 99¢ sale price and the werewolf theme! I find many modern books either "too Disney" or "too Sleazy/Shock Value", but this one is smack dab in the middle! It is gruesome and coarse, as it should be being about execution, murder, and dark times, but not overly gorey or excessive! The language is fittingly rough for the characters and circumstances, but not overdone, and no one drops the f-bomb. There are no sex scenes, but a few lewd remarks, here and there. A great book for older teenagers on up! I really should have waited to read it closer to Halloween, as it is spooky and makes me want to run and check on my sleeping children a dozen times while reading! I very much look forward to reading the rest of the series, hopefully starting with book 1!

Set in 16 th. Century Germany, the book begins with the arrival of the Kuisel family in Bamberg to attend the wedding of the Bamberg executioner, Jacob's brother Bartolmeus. Things do not go well, mainly because there is a werewolf prowling the nighttime streets horribly killing some people and snatching others away to a horrible fate. Bodies have been found floating in the river; pieces of bodies in the fields. Ferocious growling and howling alarms everyone. Soon, even those who reject the idea of a werewolf as superstition are frightened, either of the wolf, or the calls for an inquisition. Everyone in Bamberg remembers the witch trials of 30 years previous in which a thousand innocents were tortured and executed. Will it happen again? Seems so. The story unfolds in a greatly entertaining fashion as the Kuisel family finds itself in the center of the werewolf hunt and in the effort to prove that the murderer is human, or rather an inhuman, crazed, man stalking people for reasons known only to himself. As the mystery is unraveled, and the danger grows, this reader found it difficult to tear himself away. As always, Mr. Potzsch develops a fascinating picture of medieval Germany: the stench and filth of the streets and rivers, the ignorance of the people of both low and high rank and the fear and superstition that passed for religion. There are some passages that are not for the faint or squeamish; just remember, it is a crime novel, not a horror one. The true horror is what is in men's hearts. Note: the book actually begins with a flashback of 30 years previous describing the reason for the estrangement of the brothers. The wedding celebration was supposed to heal the rift. Did it? Read on.....

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