



# Silver

*Rhiannon Held*

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## **Silver** Rhiannon Held

Andrew Dare is a werewolf. He's the enforcer for the Roanoke pack, and responsible for capturing or killing any Were intruders in Roanoke's territory. But the lone Were he's tracking doesn't smell or act like anyone he's ever encountered. And when he catches her, it doesn't get any better. She's beautiful, she's crazy, and someone has tortured her by injecting silver into her veins. She says her name is Silver, and that she's lost her wild self and can't shift any more.

The packs in North America have a live-and-let-live attitude, and try not to overlap with each other. But Silver represents a terrible threat to every Were on the continent.

Andrew and Silver will join forces to track down this menace while discovering their own power and their passion for each other.

## **Silver Details**

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Author : Rhiannon Held

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Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Shapeshifters, Werewolves, Romance, Paranormal Romance

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# From Reader Review Silver for online ebook

## Meaghan says

I saw this book through the Amazon Vine program and thought it sounded really interesting. It had the hint of a romance, werewolves and a fantasy feel to it so I thought it would be a book I could enjoy.

When I received Silver, I was not sure if this book fit into the adult or young adult category and could not find out that information online. After reading it though, I would put it in the adult category. As for the genre, it could fit into a couple of them. It has elements of an urban fantasy, a paranormal romance and a fantasy novel, yet I don't think it could be classified as just one of those. It does switch point of views between Silver and Andrew, but the transitions were sometimes rough and did not flow well into the overall story. It also has the werewolves which could be in fantasy or paranormal and there was romance, but it definitely took the back seat like it would with an urban fantasy novel.

As for the characters, I did not feel any connection with them. There was no depth to them or their feelings and they felt like strangers to me. I also did not feel like I had to know any more about them as the story progressed. I wanted more emotions from Silver and Andrew and to know more about their backstory. We get a little of that later in the book, but it is not for a good hundred and fifty pages in and by that point it was too little too late for me.

I actually put this book down a couple of times and almost did not finish it because I was bored. There was not much going on except the hunt to find who tortured Silver and that was not enough to keep my attention. I pushed through because I was hoping it would pick up, but it never did. I had high hopes for this book and it just did not deliver. It also did not help that I felt left out of many of the stories the characters talked about. There were too many side plots that we came into the middle of and I did not like feeling lost. I know that we needed time for Andrew and Silver's pasts to be revealed to us, but there were other references in there that I did not understand because they happened off the page and I wish we could have explored those more. It might have helped me to connect with the characters.

There were a couple of things I did like about the book. The mythology for one thing. I liked how the werewolves shifted in this book and the idea of "Death" being a character as well as "The Lady". They were both very interesting phenomena and I enjoyed learning more about them. Death is interacting with Silver throughout the novel and his story was very interesting. You could never quite tell what he was going to do and whether or not he was leading Silver into a trap or just looking out for her. He tortures her with voices of people who have died and that was heartbreaking to watch her try deal with. Especially since some of the voices were her family that had been killed and they were trying to convince her to join them in death. Death was sneaky and oddly enough he was my favorite character in the book. I know, he tortures our heroine and while that was brutal to watch, he had a unique voice and stood out in this book.

Overall, this story was just not for me. It had all the elements I usually enjoy in a book, but the lack of connection left me feeling cold. I had no desire to see what happened to the characters next and that is never a good sign. I am not sure if this is going to be a series or not, but I know I will probably not pick up the next book if there is one. I would check out a couple of other reviews of this book and maybe read a couple of chapters before you decide if you want to read it.

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## Jacqueline says

Loved this werewolf book. It was very well written and pretty well plotted. Its strength though was in the werewolf world building and the development of the characters. There was a mystery of what had happened to Silver and how to catch the bad guy. There was a lot of in depth character building especially of the main character, Andrew Dare. No info dumping in this book. All the info was working seamlessly into the words and actions of the characters. There was a love story that developed throughout the story but it was a bit of a different one.

There are several really good reviews out there and I can't think right now so I'll just say I loved it and recommend it, and maybe you should browse some of the other reviews. :-)

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## Mary says

I'm sorry, I could not catch the vision of this book, despite it coming recommended from great sources. The acknowledgements, to be snobbish, reveal its greatest flaws: "to all my supportive coworkers and friends, including my fellow role-players, thank you." Nothing against role-playing, but the most indulgent elements here are fantasy-inhabiting--the girl who's got beautiful curves, but she's just malnourished, and she's crazy, but she suddenly gets sane (along with getting curvy). Her super power is literally making people feel sorry for her as weak and sexually vulnerable. She needs to be protected and as soon as she doesn't, she's eager to be a lover. Oh, and her lover is a tortured soul with a tragic romance in his past and a bad-boy reputation who is a lone wolf (literally), but has fantastic leadership skills that will destine him for power. Yeah, I can't handle that.

But kudos on some fun were-lore--Roanoke was beset with werewolves and packs are fiercely territorial with each other and silver is torture to them (ugh, the torture, so much indulgent torture--and villains without clear motivation beyond "you're monsters," oh, I had totally forgotten about that.)

Addendum and apology: Rhiannon has written and published a book. That is amazing. Writing a book is damn hard work. It takes a vision, dedication and a hell of a lot of hard work in all stages, from conception to revision to editing. The fact that anyone publishes a book is miraculous. With all the difficulty of writing a book, we don't really need to add to that the difficulty of criticism. I stand by my frustrations with the characters in this book, but my criticisms should only be read as if I written, "That was not the best unicorn I have ever seen."

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## Christal (Badass Book Reviews) says

*See this review and others like it at [BadassBookReviews.com/](http://BadassBookReviews.com/)*

Wow! This was an outstanding debut by Rhiannon Held. The tone and subject matter reminded me of Bitten by Kelley Armstrong in the best ways possible, but Silver was a completely unique story. I really enjoyed Ms. Held's take on werewolves and I am hoping for more from the two leads, Silver and Dare.

Andrew Dare is Roanoke's werewolf enforcer and he is on the trail of a stray smelling of silver. It's his job to

find the stray and either escort him out of pack territory or to kill him. The stray turns out to be a rather disturbed woman. She calls herself Silver because of the poison injected into her veins and she has lost her wolf self. Dare has to decide if he should hide Silver, help her, or just kill her. He finds that he can't get the young woman out of his mind and finally decides that helping her is the only thing he can do.

I would consider this book more of a character study than an action-packed thriller. The driving plot is Dare trying to track down Silver's pack and the person that attacked her. While this was very interesting, the best parts of the story were Dare and Silver's growth as characters and their slowly developing relationship. I loved learning about their secrets, pains, losses, strengths, and loves. Dare seems like he is a very hard person, but we get to see a softer side come out when he is around Silver. Silver herself seems pretty crazy at the beginning but Dare seems to help ground her and allows her to hold on to more of her actual self.

At the beginning of the book, it seems like a one-way street. Silver needs Dare's help just to survive, but she is really just a complication in his life. As the book goes along, we learn that Dare has come to depend on Silver to figure out who he is as well. The gradually developing relationship was sweet and it gave each of them a strength to act in ways they couldn't on their own. They were damaged people, but their relationship helps heal them and makes them stand on their own two feet, even in situations where they might have faltered before.

I really loved this book. I did not want to put it down, reading it in only two sittings. I'm glad to see that this will be a series from Ms. Held and the next book, Tarnished, will be out May 2013. I loved Silver and Dare but I also appreciated Ms. Held's stark writing style and her way with emotions. I will be eagerly awaiting anything she puts out next!

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## **Bunnycore says**

What would you say to Death if you could walk with him?

Silver, is about a couple. Not just a girl. We start off with Andrew Dare. Enforcer to the Ronoak pack. Dare is chasing the scent of loan. Someone with the scent of Silver. He believes it to be the Europeans because they are known to fight with silver.

What he finds is disturbing...

This is where we introduce Silver. She is underweight, holding her injured arm to her chest. Watching Dare with wide eyes from madness, and speaking to thin air. Silver lost her wild self. She is unable to shift and the mystery is to find out what happened and who done it.

This story is sweet in so many ways. There is no insta-love, no insta-lust. There is just a man wanting to protect an abused and injured woman. There is a woman who, needed the protection. She finds it in Dare. It brings into perspective, when you begin to fall in love. What would you do to keep that person safe? Dare is asked those questions. I recommend that read to find out the answers.

## **My favorite lines..**

? *"If wishes were rabbits, everyone would feast."*

? "Who am I to argue with Death?"..

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### **Leeanna says**

I haven't read many werewolf books, other than the Mercy Thompson series by Patricia Briggs. The summary for "Silver" caught my eye, though — a werewolf who can't shift? I wanted to find out what had happened to Silver, and how she lost her "wild self."

Silver, the main female character, has an interesting past. She was tortured with silver, which took away her ability to shift into were form. Torture with silver isn't something North American packs do, but Andrew Dare, the main male character, recognizes it from his time in Europe. Andrew is the reinforcer for the Roanoke pack, a job that keeps him a lone wolf — literally.

The blurb on the back cover makes it sound like a hot romance develops between Andrew and Silver as they hunt down the monster that hurt her. The relationship that springs up between them feels a lot more like a friendship that moves into something more because of shared experiences, not because they're all hot and bothered for each other. So the blurb is misleading, but I didn't mind. One of my biggest complaints with urban fantasy is romance, so I was happy that there wasn't a lot in "Silver." Not everything needs to be a love story.

For me, "Silver" isn't a memorable book. I kept putting it down and not being motivated to pick it back up. While I liked the author's writing style — particularly some of her descriptions — the pacing of the book was slow. It's only 320 pages, but it read like twice that length. Some tighter editing would have improved the flow, and taken out some unnecessary passages.

I had a hard time caring about Silver or Andrew. Silver was hard to follow, because she was somewhat crazy. Sometimes she talked to Death; the silver poisoning affected her mind as well as her ability to shift. I have to give the author credit for writing a believable crazy person (as unpolitically correct as that has to sound), but Silver's conversations with Death made the beginning of the book confusing.

"Silver" is the first in a trilogy. I probably won't pick up the next two, because I don't have that driving urge to find out what Silver and Andrew are going to do next.

*I received this book through the Amazon Vine program..*

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### **L.E. Duncan says**

Silver is a well-written, engaging urban fantasy that features werewolves and a romance-tinged main plot. But Silver has other ambitions besides "extremely competent genre tale." Silver is concerned with culture. Silver is concerned with how werewolves act and love and worship. What are their taboos? How might one pack act differently than another? Who leads and who doesn't? What's strength and what's weakness? Many of these questions are addressed contextually, through character behavior more than exposition, but some are addressed through tour-de-force sequences with Death, who may or may not be a hallucination. Death is a stand-out character, a slippery, energetic trickster, a delight every time he appears, and it's often. Werewolf politics are also handled well and smartly, wolf-like behaviors adapted for social use. Held handles facial

details, body language, and the layout of the environment all very well. The world feels plausible and tactile. The book does have some minor hang-ups. While Silver's not-entirely-trustable viewpoint is used to good effect and to some niftily odd writing, the book does occasionally suffer from the protagonists passing sweepingly correct judgments on other characters, especially in earlier chapters. None of this is unexpected - protagonists often have to be exceptional to be ... well, exceptional - but I would have liked to see more strength in the other characters that inhabited the world with Silver and Andrew (although there were strong exceptions). I would have liked to see more of the world of the beta, for example, and a deeper exploration of what it means to be lower in the hierarchy. That said, this is largely a taste issue, and our protagonists are not portrayed as perfect characters or superheroes. Battles are always hard-won when won, scars remain, mistakes are made, old issues are brought to the surface and dealt with. Silver's tragedy remains her tragedy - and it's compelling stuff.

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## **Book Girl says**

This is the second book this year that I have felt very strongly about. I flew through it really quickly because I couldn't put it down. The pacing was just right, character traits I was worried about at first were quickly addressed, and the story was genuinely interesting to me.

The first thing I worried about was Silver – the female lead – is “crazy.” A word thrown around fairly often when describing her. Often mental illness in books isn't portrayed well and while this isn't necessarily an illness we will encounter as humans good portrayal of mental health is still important. Though what Silver is experiencing parallels what some people with PTSD go through, perhaps part of it is PTSD considering the triggering incident and her symptoms, but I'm sure other illnesses parallel her experiences as well. And she is still strong. Not despite it, but by taking hold of it and not giving up. Not because she gets better or has some special ability to do so (beyond being a were). She overcomes characters opposing her that are on her side, but react to her in the same way many people try to “help” people with mental illness every day. It was very realistic and relatable.

Something I'm still a bit on the fence about is Andrew – the male lead. He's a strong character with an interesting history but it's his white-knight-to-the-rescue behavior that I'm teetering on. On one hand it's cliché for a one man army to go after the bad guy chasing the girl and giving up stuff along the way. Cue romance montage. On the other hand his background makes his decisions plausible, and even though he acknowledges an attraction to Silver near the beginning it doesn't factor into his motivation to hunt the person chasing her. The enemy is a very real threat to the werewolves, not just Silver, not just Andrew. I'm leaning on the positive side for Andrew, partially because I can't take any other fault with his character. He's very sensible and even narrow minded. But he grows, he's not static. And there are only so many ways one can do the save-the-girl romance scenario. I think my teetering comes from the fact it's a common romance plot element and that makes me question if I just like it because it didn't crash and burn in my mind, as I find many do. I'm second guessing myself. There are only so many plot devices, and this one is easy to mess up. But it was done well, as was the rest of Andrew's character.

But my favorite character has to be Death. I love reading different takes on death personified and this one was spectacular. He was tied into were lore well without making him out to be the enemy, something I really appreciate. At the end I felt his interactions with Andrew really made the romance between Silver and Andrew more plausible too. They now have shared experiences beyond lets-save-the-day. And Death is just so matter-of-fact and patient. I'm really hoping he's in the next book and that the were lore is expanded upon.

I did enjoy the political elements of the book as well. It really spoke to world issues on a smaller scale. How we combat universal threats and the importance of communication between political powers, how that's difficult when there are power games involved. The politics made this world all the more interesting and I hope the next novels explore the politics and power dynamics between packs the world over. I want to know how lore and politics differ around this world, not just between the Americas and Europe. What's happening in China? South Africa? Do the werewolf packs around the world ever even interact or do they struggle to maintain segregation? I'm already hooked, now I want more world building.

Overall I'm giving Silver four stars out of five. I sometimes find books on their own don't get five stars for me, but in a series they will. So I may do a series review as well. Whether I would re-read Silver really depends on the rest of the series.

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## **Shaun Duke says**

Every time I read an urban fantasy, I remind myself that I am not the primary audience. After all, much of what I dislike about urban fantasy are the very things I dislike about bad books. Stereotypical characterization, repetitive narratives, and repetitive tropes (if I see one more tramp stamp cover I'm going to blow a gasket). But Rhiannon Held's Silver bucked the trend, taking what should have been yet another stupid werewolf novel and turning it into a rigorously constructed sociological foray into a potential werewolf culture.

The novel's focus, oddly enough, is on Andrew Dare, not the character from which the novel draws its title. A werewolf pack enforcer, Dare discovers Silver wandering in Roanoke territory, seemingly delirious and injected with, well, silver (the connection to her name is explained in the novel). Silver's condition reminds Dare of a past that he would rather forget, and one which we discover through him as he battles against the memories. Working to uncover those responsible for Silver's torture, Dare must confront the demons that make him anti-social and unwilling to lead.

One might say that I'm an unusual reader when it comes to urban fantasy. All those flashy monsters and the like really don't mean much to me if they are substitutes for character development. What is powerful about urban fantasy for me isn't so much that it is the fantastic littered in contemporary spaces; rather, it is that urban fantasy seems like a perfect space for examining the relationships between characters, human and otherwise. Silver is such a novel, with a tangential focus on plot. What centers the novel, and made it work for me as a fantasy, are its characters. Dare is sympathetic and mysterious; reading about his development as a character, moving from a man afraid of responsibility to a man who must take it, was refreshing, in part because it meant the story needn't reduce itself to a long series of random werewolf fights in order to explore a set of themes (in this case: haunted pasts, torture, pack culture, etc.). Likewise, Silver, the second POV (less focused in this novel for reasons that become obvious as you read), suffers from similar traumas. Though her development is less pronounced than Dare's -- it is partly her past that Dare is trying to uncover -- Silver's growth as a character offers an emotional exploration into psychosis and werewolf phenomena. Readers expecting an action-packed novel would do best to explore elsewhere; this is not that kind of story.

Perhaps the novel's greatest strength lies in Held's attempt to take a fantastical concept -- the existence of werewolves -- and put a soft science spin on it. Much of the novel draws attention to the dynamics of werewolf packs and the power struggles that exist within them. While the idea is likely not original, it is one that Held handles well. Rather than infodump, the pack dynamics play a central role in the plot, allowing the reader to see the interrelations between packs, the ways in which individuals maintain pack dominance



(including Dare's struggles with his own alpha nature), and so on. One might look at Silver and call it anthropological urban fantasy. That would be a fair assessment considering that Held has argued in interviews that the world of Silver is more science fiction than it is fantasy; the werewolves have an implied evolutionary origin in the novel, which will play a more important role in future novels. Whether her universe can be conceived as a science fiction one is up to speculation; regardless, the rigor with which Held constructs her werewolf culture means the story never takes its fantastic elements for granted. That's something I can appreciate as a reader. The werewolves don't exist just for the sake of existing, as is sometimes the case in urban fantasy. They exist because there's a seemingly logical reason for it. I sometime call this "building a world that feels lived in." Silver brings us that world: a lived-in-world in the present, with a definable, if not mysterious, history.

My largest criticism of Held has to do with what she does not adequately cover. One of the subplots is the expected development of a relationship between Dare and Silver. While Dare struggles against his instincts, feeling that even a sexual flirtation with Silver is a violation of his ethical code, he eventually gives in, and it is implied that they will remain mates (in werewolf terms) for future novels. What troubles me about this is what it says about the characters, and what is not said about how others view their relationship. In other words, their relationship is, to put it bluntly, troublesome for precisely the reasons Dare cites: Silver is disabled and still psychologically unable to cope with what has happened to her, even though we see her move away from that weakness towards the end of the novel. In a very real sense, her ability to consent should be questioned, puzzled out, and explored in more depth. While Held does attempt to explore this social dynamic, Dare seems to give in too easily to temptation, and not enough resistance, in my mind, is provided by the secondary cast. Perhaps this stems from Dare's alpha nature. If so, I hope future novels will delve into the problems of their coupling.

Overall, though, this is a solid first novel. Even if what Held does is not wholly original, her ability to craft a werewolf mythology that is more anthropological than paranormal is commendable -- and certainly appreciated by this reader. Silver is the kind of novel that shows an author's strengths. Held handles the character drama with focus and molds a fantastical present worth exploring further. She has a lot of potential as a writer, and I sincerely hope Silver does well enough to warrant future books, whether in this series or otherwise.

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## **Carmel (Rabid Reads) says**

### **Reviewed by: Rabid Reads**

I'm always on the look-out for new spins on werewolves so I decided to give Rhiannon Held's a try by reading her debut novel, SILVER. My feelings on this book are pretty much split right down the middle; I loved the heroine and her mad ravings, and the mythology drew me in, but the story lacked in intensity and the romance just didn't jive. I enjoyed the author's lyrical writing style, and there are definitely more than a few howl worthy quotes however, the ending failed to deliver on what the build-up promised, and as a result, I was left feeling somewhat meh about the whole reading experience.

I liked the simplicity of Held's world-building; she conveys enough details to keep things interesting without falling victim to the "book 1 information dump syndrome". I enjoyed learning about pack hierarchy, the lore surrounding Death, the Lady, Weres and humans, and the religious aspects of the story. The author's take on the werewolves' wild vs. tame selves felt like a page out of a Psychology textbook, and demonstrated a good grasp of the genre. Death's character was also an unexpected surprise; originally I thought he was just going

to be part of Silver's delusion, but he actually takes on a life of his own and left me wondering about his true nature.

Piecing together what happened to Silver through a series of clues and delirious babbling was part of this book's charm. Held's way with words turned the girl's crazed gibberish into poetic prophecies. I was easily mesmerized by the author's imagery, and at times I felt like I was sitting down to tea with the Mad Hatter. Both of the main characters are incredibly strong in their own right, but they are also irrevocably damaged. Dare is Roanoke's pack enforcer, the butcher of Barcelona, and one of the more dominant wolves in North America, but all he really wants is to belong. Silver is certifiably nuts and yet, only the most tenacious could have survived her ordeal.

The story started off strong, but was unfortunately unable to hold its momentum the whole way through. The plot felt like it was barreling towards one pivotal moment only to fizzle where it counted. Dare leaves his pack, flies half-way across the country to avenge a girl he barely knows, challenges another alpha for leadership so that he can set his brilliant plan into motion, and then... nothing. I couldn't help but feel cheated by the ending. There wasn't much of a segue to the next installment either, no hook to entice me into reading TARNISHED. I wish the secondary characters had been a little more fleshed-out as well. I loved Andrew and Silver, but the rest just blended into the background.

SILVER is a character driven novel, and Rhiannon Held is undoubtedly a talented writer, but the story failed to live-up to its synopsis by omitting two key Urban Fantasy elements: action and romance. I don't think I'll be continuing with this trilogy.

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### **Amy Jacobs says**

First off, I don't know why this is classified as a Fantasy. I felt it fit better in the Paranormal Romance or even Urban Fantasy, but definitely not quite as Fantasy only. What made me want to read this book was the werewolf characters. It had been awhile since I stepped into the werewolf world and decided to read about them again.

When Andrew comes across Silver during a run for the pack, he is held responsible in finding out where she has come from and where she is suppose to belong. Sounds good right? You would think this would create some drama or at the very least some suspense. Well, it could have but never did for me. This book was choppy, not paced well and all around boring. I hate to use those words because I know this is an author's hard work, but it is what it is for this reader. I had to struggle just to finish this book and reading should never be a struggle.

If you want a good werewolf read, look elsewhere. If you want a Fantasy, look elsewhere. If you just want something to pass the time, then pick it up. Don't expect much though from the story though.

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### **Jami says**

This was an okay book but you know, and this, I'm sure, is just me, I am sick and tired of atheist characters. I don't know if it's because it's the hip, in thing, or if the author is one and therefore writes one. I just know it's a trend I'm tired of. And it really makes no sense here. Andrew is a freaking WEREWOLF! He's a

supernatural being, beyond the explanation of science. An atheist werewolf makes as much sense as an atheist ghost. You know for a fact that there's strange things out there. How can you deny the possibility of gods and goddesses in all shapes and forms?

And even when he's confronted with evidence to the contrary he still wants to explain away and deny it. I just wanted to reach in and smack him for being so pigheaded and blind.

If at least it had been explained why he didn't believe like "If the Lady exists why did she let my wife die? Why won't she make my daughter forgive and love me again?" I could buy it. But in this case, I don't.

Dude, Andrew, you heal incredibly fast, you can shape shift - something that is scientifically impossible - the only thing that can be explained by science is your allergy to silver. But not the fact that every single werewolf is. (I'm allergic to nickel myself. I can't wear earrings with nickel in them or my lobes swell up.) At the very least you should be agnostic, not a flat out non-believer.

I'm sorry, I just can't buy it any more than I can buy those books where vampires are smart enough to have a society and use technology, but still make humans, their main food source not to mention the source for new vampires, close to extinct once they take over the world. (Honestly, vampires smart enough to do all that would NOT kill children and pregnant women willy-nilly and would set up good medical programs as well as breeding programs. Plus not allow their own population to get out of control.)

I just could not suspend my disbelief because of this one issue. Don't try to explain it to me because it still won't make sense to me.

Oh, and can I add how sick and tired I am of "Oh! Religion bad!" themes? Ug! There's lots of GOOD things religion did too, you know. Did you know people who are religious are more likely to recycle? We also live longer because we're less stressed out. Less likely to commit violent crime. There's lots of people alive today who would otherwise be killed because they're "Evolutionarily inferior" due to things like being handicapped. How about owning up to all the evil atheism has done? Hitler, Stalin, Mao Tse Tung, all atheists. Ask anyone who's left Vietnam how bad their atheist based government treats them. Hey, look at China, atheist based government exporting deadly dog treats and lead paint covered toys.

The whole "religion bad" theme is tired already. Yes, there are people who claim to be believers who've done terrible things. But it's NOT religion's fault. It's the fault of greed and jealousy. Looking to grasp land and money. How about authors stop blaming religion and start blaming humans for being greedy little a\*\*holes? Stefen was just insane after his torture. No need to blame religion. Blaming religion for bad things people choose to do is as stupid as blaming video games or music. Evil is a choice.

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## **Jo (Mixed Book Bag) says**

### Paranormal

Just some background. I received an advance uncorrected proof (ARC) of *Silver* from Amazon Vine. This is the first published novel by Rhiannon Held. After reading *Silver* I assume that it is the first in the world Rhiannon has built.

My take on the novel:

Worldbuilding: This is a totally different take on werewolves and how a pack functions. There was a lot to get in and it is handled beautifully. Mixed into the story line there is a hint here and a hint there. It never intrudes on the story but is an interregal part of the story line.

Backstory: There is a lot of backstory in the book. Like the worldbuilding it is dropped in without intruding. There will be hint in the middle of some dialog, a little mixed into the action and it all builds until you know the entire story. In some instances that does not happen until the end of the book. There were so many hints about past action that I did stop to see if I had started a book in the middle of the series.

Characters: Both main characters were well developed. Silver a little less than Andrew but most of that was because Andrew's background was more complex. There was not skimping on developing the side character either. Even some who were only several phone conversations had depth and substance.

Plot: Very involved. Everything was interwoven into the plot. Backstory, worldbuilding, characters were all interrogated into the story line. Everything moved along seamlessly without the awkward sections you sometimes find in books.

Writing: With everything else I have mention you have to know the book is very well written. Rhiannon has her own unique voice and it comes across in Silver.

Tor will release Silver by Rhiannon Held in June of 2012.

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## Keertana says

Rating: 3.5 Stars

*Silver* is an adult urban fantasy novel like no other. First and foremost, it tackles one of the most unique ideas I've come across in my reading of werewolf lore and I just *loved* the manner in which this was executed. It was told mostly as a murder mystery, but it contained heavy character development as well, switching between the perspectives of Andrew and Silver. In all honesty, it is *them* who drive this novel forward, with their scarring pasts and struggles to make a better future for themselves and their romance is very subtle and truly beautiful to see play out.

While I truly enjoyed reading *Silver*, with its plot twists and dark tale, I did think it could have benefited from a little more emphasis on the world-building. It isn't shabby in the least, but I would have liked a few more details. Furthermore, I found that some scenes, while definitely contributing to some of the character qualities that Andrew and Silver possessed, could have been cut out entirely. In my opinion, they didn't do much for the novel and made it a little chunkier than it could have been. Lastly, and most probably my biggest qualm, was the unrealistic situation when it came to the villain. I found it a little hard to believe that the villain was so preoccupied with a beautiful woman that he didn't hear his prisoner break free of his chains on the floor below and make a racket while crawling up the stairs towards him...you see what I mean?

Yet, overall, *Silver* was an excellent tale. As a character, Silver can often come across as insane due to her situation, but the ultimate way in which this was dealt with and the fact that Andrew was able to see her inner strength despite that just made me fall in love with the romance - and this book - even more. If you're looking for an unique take on werewolf lore or are just another fan of Adult Urban Fantasy with a tinge of

murder mystery and a hint of romance, this is just the book for you! :)

You can read this review and more on my blog, Ivy Book Bindings.

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## **Silver James says**

is the debut paranormal novel by Rhiannon Held. This isn't a romance, though it is a love story. This isn't urban fantasy though it's a gritty depiction of werewolf life. The language is both sparse and lush, the ideas both lofty and grounded. There are universal truths in this book, presented in a lyrical story of light, death, madness, and redemption. Andrew Dare is enforcer for the Roanoke pack, which encompasses most of the eastern part of the US. Dare has a dark and ugly past and many other packs and their alphas tread lightly around him. Sent to investigate a lone wolf, he finds Silver, a werewolf trapped in human form after being tortured by silver. Silver isn't her real name but she knows no other. The walk through Silver's world, as seen through her eyes is a powerful one. Dare's journey of self-discovery is just as meaningful. This is a book that stays with a reader, creeping into memory and dreams, much like Death slinking through Silver's reality. And hey, the heroine has a really cool name! ;-) I don't think that I would recommend this book strictly to UF/paranormal readers but at the same time, readers who hate the genre might not look beyond the "skin" to see the soul underneath. All I can say is, give it a try. See for yourself.

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