



Bareback

Kit Whitfield

Download now

Read Online ➔

Bareback

Kit Whitfield

Bareback Kit Whitfield

Biology is destiny.

For those born feet-first, life is normal. Civil rights are enshrined in law, the world is a comfortable place, and every full moon night, you lock yourself in a secure room to fur up in peace. But for those born head-first, the damage done is more than just physical. For a non, locked in his or her human skin, is first and foremost a conscript, drafted at eighteen into DORLA, the Department for the Ongoing Regulation of Lycanthropic Activity.

For a DORLA agent, insultingly referred to as a 'bareback', full moon creates a battle zone, where they patrol the silent night in search of citizens breaking the curfew. The rest of the month is a civil service nightmare, mopping up the after-effects of the trespasses, the fights and the maulings. DORLA has lasted centuries, since the Inquisition first set it up, and it's no less hated now than it was then.

Lola Galley, twenty-eight and already a scarred veteran, is assigned to defend a curfew-breaker who mutilated a good friend of hers. She doesn't want the case, but she's used to doing things she doesn't want. Only something happens: her maimed friend is murdered before her client can be tried.

Lola wants justice. She'll settle for the truth. But in a divided world, asking for the truth may bring answers that you don't want to hear.

Kit Whitfield has created a world that is wholly, unnervingly convincing. This work shows her to be a novelist of rare gifts and astonishing imagination.

Bareback Details

Date : Published 2007 by Vintage Books (first published 2006)

ISBN : 9780099503620

Author : Kit Whitfield

Format : Paperback 550 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Shapeshifters, Werewolves, Fiction, Horror, Mystery, Paranormal

 [Download Bareback ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Bareback ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Bareback Kit Whitfield

From Reader Review Bareback for online ebook

Stef Rozitis says

What would you say are the chances of me liking a "paranormal realism" book about werewolves, where a major and important part of the plot is a (heterosexual) romance between our heroine who is a loner/misfit and a very attractive young werewolf.

Yeah I didn't think it would happen either! I guess I gave it a go because of the idea that it had something to say about prejudice and violence- something that I expected to be cringefully simplistic but I thought at least may be timely.

It turned out I much underestimated the author and her book. Lola's loner status and "difference" are well portrayed and believable. She is intelligent, gutsy and relateable- her flawedness is portrayed in a sympathetic (though at times horrifying) way. The love-interest, Paul is sensitive and open and easy to buy into liking along with her- their sex is portrayed as passionate and sensuous without the TMI stating the obvious type tropes.

I hated some of the stuff about sexual violence in the creches, and at first I was inclined to dismiss it as a sexist (and heterosexist) trope but it turned out to be more than that, it was addressed as a trope, questioned even. The thing is pretending violence like that never happens would be naive, but this book looks at the long and short term trauma of being a survivor of it (also the way individual acts of violence are socially constructed). I hated the inevitability of "us vs them" war-like ways of being and then the protagonist stopped and wondered the same thing with me.

There were chinks in things, the ending was exactly what it should have been and very restrained (neither too happy nor too tragic).

In short this book made me think, parts of the story had me on the edge of the seat desperate to read more (500+ pages seemed to turn themselves) and I liked many of the characters.

I recommend this book, I really do. I will be looking to see what else Kit Whitfield may have written.

Hirondelle says

I quit. Not my cup of tea. Interesting, but the premise of the universe just does not make me suspend disbelief, and nothing in plot of characters makes me want to actually finish the book.

Kate says

In a world where werewolves - or lycos as they are called in this debut novel - are the norm and barebacks or 'nons' (in other words people that do not turn at the full moon) are considered disabled or crippled, born with a birth defect that means they come out headfirst and different, Lola May is a social outcast. As a non, she is forced to work as a dog-catcher for DORLA, the organisation responsible for policing the activity of lunes (lycos during full moon) for the two days of the month that they become wild animals who will attack and kill anything. For the rest of the month, she is a lawyer dealing with, for the most part, tramps and homeless

people who have not managed to get themselves locked away in time before changing.

This all sounds very sci-fi, very Buffy the Vampire Slayer but this book is so much more than that. By turning the werewolf tale on its head, we are put into the shoes of the persecuted, the outcasts - a place where I, as a white, middle-class girl, am not usually placed. It is well written, exciting, interesting, thrilling and you really care what happens. It is intriguing and I would highly recommend it.

Clarice says

So, when I picked this book up from the library, it was a spontaneous choice and I completely thought it would be kind of cracktastic. Well... I was completely and wonderfully wrong. The set up is pretty decent - a world of werewolves where being non-were was a birth defect/disability, and the nons ran a government agency to help deal with weres who caused trouble and were a minority treated as a lower caste of people. The set up was good, the story was pretty well thought out, and a lot of the emotional arcs and movements of the storyline felt real to me.

There's some really gorgeous moments in it as well, and that just made it better.

Naiya says

Man, I'm so glad I gave Benighted by Kit Whitfield a chance.

In Benighted, being wholly human is a recessive gene. When the full moon rises, ninety-nine percent of the human population humans transform into lunes (werewolves), mindless, ferocious animals, wrecking havoc if left to their own devices. Those few born unable to change are the minority – often viewed with disgust and hostility for their disability.

Lola Galley is a veteran of the Department for the Ongoing Regulation of Lycanthropic Activities, an organization staffed by non-lunes that monitors the city during the full moon and is tasked with keeping order and capturing the lunes who break the law to roam free on full-moon nights. When Lola's friend is attacked by a lune, and then murdered before the attacker can be brought to justice, Lola finds herself on the trail of a deadly conspiracy.

There's a lot I loved about this book. The murder mystery is different. The world concept is unique. The writing style is different. But more than that, Benighted doesn't shy away from tackling issues of social and racial prejudice and its effect. For that, this book wins both my respect and a place on my all-time favorite urban fantasy books list.

This is not a light or fun read, nor the average high drama urban fantasy fare. It is bleak, sometimes beautiful, and definitely disquieting for the questions it raises. In its ambition, it comes closer to literature than genre fiction.

Benighted gives us Lola, who is part of a feared minority. It affects her entire life - her relationships, her job, her role in her family, the way she perceives her worth and her appearance. There is no easy answer or revelatory celebration of self-love at the end of this book.

Equally fascinating, Whitfield's world setup puts non-lunes ("barebacks" as they are called) both into the

role of oppressed minority, and into the role of a special police force, tasked with keeping order on the streets when lices transform into wolves, and granted gestapo-level powers and almost no funding.

Lola, as part of the bareback-only Department for the Ongoing Regulation of Lycanthropic Activities is both oppressed minority to be viewed with pity and disgust for her disability...and the police force, facing a monthly deadly threat of violence on the city streets and facing charges of police brutality. Prejudice, fear-of-life, public scrutiny, and life-and-death situations intersect in fascinating, bleak ways. In Lola's interactions with her world, you see childhood trauma meet PTSD meet the soul-devouring effects reality of being different and ostracized.

There is one scene in particular (and out of many) that has stayed with me – Lola's sister, who has staunchly been Lola's champion and defender, has a baby. (view spoiler)

This book is not simple. The murder mystery resolution goes into a direction I hadn't seen before. Lola's attempt to face a traumatic incident from her past ends with tragic ambiguity. Love doesn't conquer all, though perhaps a ray of light does slip through the cracks of Lola's romantic subplot.

Such a good read.

Mircalla64 says

Lola Galley non è un licantropo. In un mondo in cui i lica sono la razza dominante lei fa parte della ristretta cerchia dei senzapele. I senzapele non hanno diritto ad una vita privilegiata, né ad un'istruzione. Vengono prelevati da piccoli e cresciuti in appositi nidi, dove solo i più forti sopravvivono per essere poi addestrati a fare la ronda nelle notti di luna piena. Lola è quanto di più vicino ci sia tra la sua gente ad un avvocato. Ha una sorella lica ed un amante lica. Ma questo non è un problema. Il problema sembra essere una strana tendenza dei lica ad aggredire gli agenti Dorla, un corpo speciale di poliziotti che sorveglia le notti di plenilunio. Lola stessa ne fa parte, anche se la cosa comincia a crearle qualche problema. L'indagine viene affidata a lei, e contemporaneamente le viene affidata la difesa di uno dei sospetti. Le cose sembrano complicarsi ancora di più quando un suo diretto collaboratore viene ucciso. Lola si trova al centro del conflitto, a fare da bersaglio a causa delle pressioni sociali sempre più forti tra i lica ed i senzapele. E quello che scoprirà alla fine la lascerà senza speranza, in un mondo in cui quelli come lei sembrano in estinzione. O forse è lei ad augurarsi che lo siano...

L'atmosfera noir è il punto forte di questo romanzo, che potrebbe essere un normale racconto d'indagine poliziesca, non fosse per il tocco fantasy dato dalla presenza dei licantropi nella struttura sociale in un mondo, per altri versi assai simile al nostro. Lola vive il disincanto ed il cinismo che intere generazioni di detective noir hanno respirato da che esiste il genere. E tutto questo senza che per un attimo si avverta il peso del già noto. I suoi superiori sono come ci si immagina debbano essere i capi di una struttura poliziesca in un mondo dominato da persone privilegiate. Corruzione e disperazione sembrano la regola. Incomunicabilità ed odio sono alla base dei rapporti sociali. Lola scivola lentamente da un idealismo puro in una sorta di cinico disincanto, seguendo la spirale di ambiguità che la circonda e minaccia costantemente la sua sopravvivenza. E il modo che sceglierà per uscirne è il solo possibile in un mondo che sembra radicato nel suo voler difendere a tutti i costi i privilegi di pochi a totale discapito di un'intera popolazione sottomessa.

Anna Maria Pelella

MG says

Benighted is not a book to start with false expectations. If you are looking for a story which focuses on the fantasy elements and worldbuilding, or a supernatural drama, this is not the book for you. *Benighted* is depressing as all get out, and that needs to be understood going in.

Its protagonist and narrator is Lola Galley, a "bareback" in a world filled with lycanthropes. "Barebacks" (a derogatory term for non-lycanthropes), or nons, are conscripted at a young age into DORLA, the organization which runs the world during the full moon, and which handles crimes committed by people while they are transformed. DORLA is generally disliked by the public because of the power they wield, and, since all nons are by default DORLA employees, this results a good deal of friction between the tiny non population and the rest of the world. All of this is important, but it's not the heart of the story.

What makes this book worth reading is its complete emotional realism. Lola, despite being only in her twenties, is run down and older than she should be. She's paid very little money for doing a very dangerous job and has no real prospects for improving her situation. She distrusts everyone outside of DORLA and they distrust her in kind. The book is, along with being an engaging mystery, a chronicle of her experience as both a perpetual outsider and a member of a highly insular organization of dubious ethical standards. She lives through things that are less than palatable, and over the course of the story herself does some things which are arguably worse.

The psychology is fascinating and drives a thoroughly engrossing plot. If you can stomach the depression, absolutely worth reading.

Chris says

Let's be honest, the urban/paranormal fantasy sub-genre is glutted at this point in time. Like all genres, UF has varying degrees or classes of writers (or books). You have books that are quick, fun reads, kinda guilty pleasures or "B" movies; such as the *Kitty Norville* books. You have books whose authors believe they are making some type of message, but really aren't; a "B" movie with pretensions. You have books that can rise above the "B" level with a little more something, like *Dresden Files*.

Then you have *Benighted*, an entirely different kettle of fish. It is either literature or it borders on literature. Where it stands, comes down to the reader's liking of Whitfield's style.

If you are expecting standard UF or PF fare, *Benighted* is not the book for you. It is nothing like *Anita Blake*, *Women of the Otherworld*, or *The Hollows*. It is a difficult and challenging book. It's not a light read. It is, however, a rewarding and thought provoking read.

Several weeks back, I read and reviewed *The Summoning* and said I was tired of race being used simply in terms of romantic angst, and how females leads weren't really different in terms of looks. This is not the case with *Benighted*. Whitfield's set-up is quite simple. In a world where most of the population goes furry every month, the small minority that doesn't is the agency that patrols the furry population when they hit their monthly. Whitfield's main character, Lola, is a bareback (yes, I know there is a different meaning to that word) which means she is not a lune (werewolf). Because of this, she and the others like her, experience discrimination every single day.

This allows Whitfield to actually look at the effects of such discrimination on people. Too often in UF we get lip service to the idea of discrimination (or racism or sexism). If you look at the popular series, however,

there is no in-depth analysis of it. Anita Blake, Elena, and Kitty are all non-human and are segregated out of the human society because of what they are, yet in their books we mostly see them functioning in a society where they are not the minority. Anita has (or had) one strict human friend, Elena had one human boyfriend, who she dumped, and Kitty has her family, but the werewolves and vampires get more play. The characters who are supposedly outsiders are actually part of the in-group of the novel. In those novels, in terms of characters, strict humans are the minority, and very rarely do central characters behave as if they have been effected by an -ism; they might have to hide, but outright discrimination doesn't really seem to occur or should it, like in *Kitty Takes a Holiday*, it lacks depth. *Benighted*, Lola is part of the minority. It effects her whole life. It effects her outlook on life. It effects her relationships.

Benighted is in a basic sense a mystery. Lola wants to find a murderer. The book, however, transcends that. It transcends the basic werewolf or vampire plot. What the reader gets, and this is what makes the book an uncomfortable read, is the effect of discrimination on the minority and the majority. Whitfield asks and answers, what happens in a caste system. While the minority in the book is based on a lack of transformation, Lola could be any minority in today's real world. On top of the theme of discrimination, Whitford examines the role of law and justice in such a society. Lola is not an angel; she is particularly unlikable. I do not even know how I feel about her. Lola is a real character and this means she is heavily flawed. What is important, and what makes the book though provoking, is that the reader is never shown which side is right, not really. Do Lola and her co-workers go too far? Do the lunes go too far? The book leaves the reader with a feeling of disquiet because of the questions about society, race, and social class that it raises.

Additionally, Whitfield has really thought about how her lunes would work and what the laws of society would be in terms of applying to them, at least in furry form. She is the only writer I have seen who takes a woman's monthly cycle into account and how it would be affected by changing.

Benighted is not an easy book, and it is true that Whitfield's prose could be tighter in places, but it is a worthy, thought provoking book.

Jade says

Bareback Jade Farrar

Kit Whitfield

©2006

In the book Bareback the world is very similar to earth, except for one thing. Most of the population is Lyco (werewolves), who become horrible beasts underneath the full moon. And the other very small percentage of the population are called barebacks who are regular humans. The main character in this story is 28-year-old Lola Galley. In this world there are rules about the werewolves transformed roaming outside after their curfew. There are agents who take care of that, and they are all barebacks, and Lola is one of them. All these barebacks work for the Department for the On going Regulation of Lycanthropic Activities (DORLA). One night when Lola's out on the job, her coworker/friend hand got bitten off by a werewolf, and shot a few days later. Then some time later a lyco gets shot too, the thing that is similar to these two shootings is that the victims were both shot with silver bullets which are only used by DORLA operatives. When DORLA thinks that they know who committed the crime, the think that Lola may be his next victim. Lola's boss suggests for her to transfer, but Lola doesn't want to. So her boss suggests for her to live somewhere else for a while. Lola goes to her sisters "flat"(home) to stay. When Lola tells her sister Becca the reason why, Becca sends her right out in fear of the safety of her child. Becca, then stays with her boyfriend Paul, who is a lyco. After a certain period of time passes, DORLA brings in Lycos who they feel are in cahoots with the killer. A couple days later her boyfriend Paul is arrested, because other DORLA agents think that he too is in cahoots

with the killer. Lola is not sure if Paul is innocent or guilty. In the end it turns out that the real bad guy was someone who I didn't suspect at all!

This story was not one of my favorites because a couple of times I had to reread thing to make sure what was going on. Also one thing that I didn't like was that it was so long and there were parts in it that didn't have to be in the book. Overall I think that plot and conflict was interesting, because I never read anything like it.

Jamie Collins says

This book supposes a world where more than 99% of the population are lycanthropes, who transform into wild, unthinking beasts for a single night every month. The tiny minority of non-lycanthropes are drafted into an organization that polices the rest of the population. The "nons" spend that night hunting down those who violate the law by not locking themselves safely away. The protagonist is a "non", and the book is not so much about werewolves as it is about her life experience as a member of this minority group.

It's a interesting premise, and I enjoyed the book, but it has some serious flaws. The police organization run by the "nons" seems illogical. They serve a critical function in this society, yet they're poorly paid, foolishly restricted in their methods and dangerously untrained. But incongruently, they have an amazing amount of power over any "lyco" who has broken the law, or who they even suspect to have broken the law. They're able and willing to imprison them indefinitely without legal advice while torturing them for information. It's a strange mix of oppression and power.

The writing is awkward in some places and quite good in others. At the fifty page mark I was underwhelmed, but the story improved when Paul the social worker was introduced, and it got downright riveting as the book progressed.

A little technical detail in the right places can really add to the realism of a book, and I think the author skimped on her research. Most of the discourse on what causes someone to be born a "non" is weak, as is the scene where the protagonist asks a friend to examine a car that she suspects has been sabotaged.

Michael says

An interesting premise let down by poor writing/world building decisions. It's a world where most of the population is made up of werewolves. Those who aren't are conscripted into an agency (DORLA) who watches over the lycanthropic population on the nights they change over.

But why does this agency exist? There are references in the book to show that the werewolves are able to pack together without slaughtering each other while they're in their turned state. So if 99.4% of the population would be OK even during the full moon if the wolves run free, why not have the non-werewolves go to the shelters the book describes, and everyone can go about their business? And at any rate, the crimes that DORLA is responsible for punishing the werewolves for all seem to be acts done to the agents who are sent to catch them. And it makes the climax of the book seem that much more unnecessary.

There are a few good moments here, but far too much sloppy writing and plotting, especially for a book that crosses the 500 page mark.

P D says

Based on the blurb, I got a sense that this would be supernatural noir with an intriguing premise - most of the population are werewolves and for the unlucky few who aren't, all of their choices are subsumed into a career in maintaining the peace during moon nights via an organization called DORLA, when society collectively loses its prefrontal cortex, down to a level where they even shut off the power because there's no one around to run it.

DORLA is like the CIA except with no money (down to the enhanced interrogation techniques) - which seems odd given how important they are and how many secrets they have access to - although in this book, with the repeated references to Christianity, the more apt comparison is the Inquisition. The narrator's struggle with morality is interesting, although it doesn't seem to go anywhere at the end - she shifts between things to be bitter and cynical about, sure - as is the general friction between herself and wider society, whom she mainly sees as clients who have been caught loitering on full moon nights and now need to be defended in court. When she's given the opportunity to interrogate those who have personally tried to harm her, she learns how uncomfortable torture is - although she doesn't do much about it later, and ultimately it dangles there without resolution or any great lessons.

I mentioned I thought this book would be supernatural noir, and it does contain elements of both, but the amount of self-reflection and the narrator's tendency to wax lyrical about, well, everything push it more into contemporary fiction. I was frustrated more than once at the lack of story progression. There's a lot of description and given how this book ends - on what is in a sense an aside from the bulk of the story, albeit not tangential, and with the narrator in a not very different frame of mind - I have to ask how much all those scenes contributed. There's a lot of opportunity for interesting discussion, especially on the relatively neglected eugenics bit, but narrowing the focus back down to the narrator's quotidian life throws a lot of it out the window. Not to mention the lack of change - no one seems to care that they have caused irreparable psychological harm by keeping people in the cells, even though the narrator remarks on it several times.

Basically, while the concept is interesting and the characters are very well developed, and the mystery does take a couple of interesting twists that aren't illogical, the amount of description and number of scenes don't lead to any sort of bigger statement, which does raise the question of how much they're worth slogging through. It feels like the author tried to put everything into this book, but unfortunately it doesn't deliver.

Brent Scherer says

The book was just not good at best and very irritating at worst.

The main character is completely unlikable. The victim of being a minority her entire life, she lashes out at anyone and everyone she can without reason. She has a personality that she's on the righteous side of everything because she is a victim when the legal system she uses is completely idiotic and makes no sense given the fact the population is 99% werewolves. Somehow her and her organization have the legal authority to lock up people and ask for confessions to crimes they won't describe with no evidence. Free to beat and pummel people without legal representation and without letting them notify the outside world? If there's supposed to be a message or parallel to injustice against minorities in our own history, it gets lost in the book

when it's the minority doing all the messed up things.

The characters that drive the mystery of the story aren't explained at all and have next to no personality which makes it hard to care when things go bad for them.

There's a forced romance that makes next to no sense from the male perspective. She's allowed to lock him up, insult him, and treat him like crap and yet he still loves her? Then any man who isn't as wimpy as him is the sort that stands around waving his junk around to prove he's the real alpha male.

The entire system of the society is stupid too. Werewolves are expected to lock themselves up even though they are the vast majority? What's the issue with letting them run free and sticking the "barebacks" into lock down instead? Society has been like this for so long and they haven't learned how to lock down their own homes that they need to run into shelters instead? Short of tearing up their own cars or mattresses, there's no real explanation why the werewolves have to be locked up.

The main character remains unlikable the entire way through. From the beginning sitting by letting people beat up her client, to the middle when she's berating her boyfriend for no reason, to the end when she adopts a self-righteous attitude and performing self-satisfying displays of pointlessness.

An interesting trend I see is that the majority of the negative reviews are from men and the overwhelming majority of positive reviews are from women. Perhaps her insane ramblings and disturbingly strange panic attacks make sense to some. As somebody who loves Kim Harrison's, Carrie Vaughn's, and Laurel K Hamilton's lead characters (Well Anita Blake up until she became a porn star), I know it's not because of her gender that I found myself disliking Lola so much. It's because her personality was so flawed yet the author attempts to portray her as something she's not- a good person.

I couldn't help but laugh at the Q&A at the end of my copy (it was an advanced printing so I don't know if the regular book has it) that Whitfield says that racism was not the main point of why she began the book. Really? Almost the whole book is based on how the main character is persecuted for the fact.

I would have given two stars if the werewolves were described better but for being a werewolf book, it talked very little about them. When did it happen, how does it happen? All this time passes and nobody explains why they shift during the full moon even when they're locked away from it? What do they even look like? Incredibly weak.

Juushika says

Benighted takes place in a world not unlike our own, except for one fundamental difference: over 99% of the population are lycanthropes, and the remaining minority work with the Department for the Ongoing Regulation of Lycanthropic Activity, capturing and prosecuting luncs that break full-moon curfews. Lola Galley is a DORLA veteran, but the events of two bad moon nights leads her to investigate a new type of lycanthrope crime: lycos capable of thought in wolf form and murder in human form. *Benighted* is uniquely conceived and features a complex plot and a cast of realistic, faulted characters. Unfortunately, it suffers from inconsistent pacing and the conclusion comes out of left field, seemingly unrelated to the rest of the book. I recommend it as a unique, intelligent deviation from the werewolf genre, but I hope that Whitfield's later novels are more consistent.

Benighted is Kit Whitfield's first novel, and it reads like one—a very promising first novel, introducing an author with with new ideas and realistic characters, but a first novel nonetheless. The author's inexperience

shows: Inconsistent pacing, where some events pass swiftly but some linger in lengthy backstory and character introspection, makes the book feel even longer than its 500 pages. The plot builds in layers of increasing complexity, but the conclusion is an unwelcome departure from this careful scripting—it seems to come from nowhere, resting on plot points which don't appear until the very end of the story.

Despite these weaknesses, *Benighted* has a lot to offer. The premise is ingenious: rather than an exception, werewolves are the rule—and non-transforming humans are a pitied and discriminated minority group, charged with policing the behavior of lycos in their wild transformed state. This creates a dark and gritty setting peopled by characters with shadowed pasts and circumspect motivation. It also raises a number of delicate political and social issues, including the most difficult question of all: if you could join the majority group, would you? These issues could benefit from more analysis and more open-minded conclusions, the characters are identifiable but not always likable, and the conclusion is decidedly bittersweet. Gritty and depressing as these aspects may be, they are still a welcome and intelligent deviation from the standard tropes of the werewolf genre.

I look forward to future novels from Whitfield, to see if she writes more consistently now that she has some experience. But for all its faults, I enjoyed *Benighted*. It reminds me somewhat of the film *Perfect Creature*, with the same gritty aesthetic and social divide. The premise is an ingenious deviation from standard werewolf tropes and the horror genre, and Whitfield has an incredible grasp on the complexities and darkness of human motivation. The book is compelling and engrossing, despite the length and sometimes slow pacing. I have some reservations, but I recommend *Benighted*. Werewolf and horror fans will appreciate it, but the complex characters, crime drama aspects, and social issues open it to an even wider audience of readers.

Ladiibbug says

Did Not Finish - Quit at page 130

90% of the population are werewolves, the other 10% are non's. The law requires werewolves to lock themselves inside on full moons to avoid prowling, maiming and murdering while under the moon influence.

The non's are required to belong to DORLA (Dept. for the Ongoing Regulation of Lycanthropic Activities). DORLA teams in vans hunt on full moon nights to catch and jail those werewolves who are out. The "dogcatching" is extremely dangerous, as the human non's are ill equipped, not well trained, and strictly regulated as to tactics. Most non's have been maimed or seriously injured, but in this world, that's just the way it is, and there's nothing to be done about it.

The non's of DORLA also represent the werewolves who are caught (as quasi-attornies) and jail them. (Not sure if they're judges also.)

At first the book is intriguing and very different from anything I've read before. But the DORLA non's live such difficult lives with so few choices that for me the book quickly becomes depressing.
