



Salad on the Side

Karenn Colcroft

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Since moving to Boston, Kyle Slidell has met only a few of his neighbors, including Tobias Rogan. Kyle is very interested in Tobias, and is ecstatic to learn that Tobias wants him too. But his neighbors have a secret: They're werewolves, and Tobias is the pack Alpha. When one of the wolves attacks Kyle in the neighborhood garden one night, Kyle learns the truth in a hurry. Now he's a werewolf too-and since he's vegan, he refuses to eat meat. With Tobias's help and love, Kyle must adjust to his new life and protect himself and his friends from a neighboring pack.

Salad on the Side Details

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From Reader Review Salad on the Side for online ebook

Chris says

2.5 stars. Ok paranormal m/m romance about a vegan who doesn't realize he's living among werewolves until he's bitten and changed. These were probably the most long-winded werewolves ever - there needed to be a lot less talking in this book. Hopefully the obviously planned for sequel will be less chatty.

Eva says

For werewolves who talk as much as these do it's surprising how little they end up saying. Instead leaving Kyle and the readers in the dark.

The whole idea about a vegan werewolf was interesting, but the pacifist side Kyle kept showing was a bit much to handle. I'm not saying he should be a ruthless bastard but in a what's obviously a dog eat dog world (pardon the pun) he should realize that he's been thrust into a world that plays by different rules so he can either get used to it fast or pack his bags and run far far away.

(view spoiler)

So while I liked the book it left to many open questions for my taste.

Mandi says

[poor Kyle almost gets killed, turns into a werewolf (after 3 days of being unconscious) and everyone jumps down his throat about the rules of being a member of the pack. Give the man a breather! He had no time to really digest what even happened to him!

(hide spoiler)]

Meggie says

I liked this new view into pack hierarchy. Kyle was amazingly interesting character and his thoughts were partly sarcastic, funny and simply enjoyable. I really liked him. Tobias was the pack leader and this way of writing didn't suit him as a characters. I missed his thoughts and way of thinking, but otherwise he was interesting even if a bit out sided. In general, this way really interesting view into pack life. I highly recommend this story to others!

Ashley♥Alexis says

I really liked this story. My only complaint would be about Tobias' Alpha status. I just didn't see it. I felt like the pack ran their mouth way too much, And to me that made him look weak.

Tj says

I was really looking forward to this one. The idea of a vegan werewolf was just so different. Unfortunately there were some turn offs in the story. I could have overcome this but things just dragged in the story. Nothing big happening, lots of talk with no action, and lots of internal dialogue. By the end things picked up again, enough that I would read another in the series. Because of the middle it's more of a 2.5 stars for me. I did enjoy Kyle. He was an interesting character.

Anna May says

I like the idea behind this storyline.

SPOILERS AHEAD - Please stop reading now unless you want to be spoiled

I really like Kyle in this story and how he became a shifter. There no rules on how packs are supposed to behave. Every writer makes up her or his own world. In this case here, I have to strongly disagree with some view points.

The Alpha can use mind control to control his members. If someone is challenged and he refuses, he can be killed. Pack members cannot have a will of their own, they can be compelled by the Alpha even against their wishes. Women are valued as less than men. Overall I find these views a very old fashioned and not in a good sense. Like when back when women were cattle and were not allowed to have a mind of their own.

In a modern book about shifters I found this part of universe off putting because it cut to close to personal hick ups of mind.

Also, Kyle, the lead character, faking to go along with being controlled to give the Alpha the illusion of power I find apprehensive. I understand the logic behind it but don't much like how it played out. Again, these are my own personal issues here coming out to play.

I have heard of many good books which deal with certain topics like slavery, mind control etc which I have refused to read because I know I would only get upset. Again, this isn't anything negative about the book just my own personal likes and dislikes. I am stressing this here because I don't want there to be any misunderstanding about what I said before. What I talked about here, were things that put me off for personal reasons.

The characters were very well fleshed out, the sex scenes were more than hot and the 1st POV is one of the toughest choices to tell a story and yet, it was done excellently here. I really got to live as Kyle, see through his eyes, feel what he felt. That takes more than just a little bit of talent.

If my hick ups aren't yours, then by all means, I can only recommend this book. :)

Jaime says

I liked this story, though it left me with a few questions I'm hoping the sequel will answer. It will be interesting to see how Tobias reconciles his democratic nature with his duties as Alpha of a race who seems to have a tendency to bite first and ask questions later. There are a lot of dichotomies set up in both main characters. I'm going to trust the author's ability to answer all the questions, tie up all the loose ends and reconcile all the inner opposition these guys face. (Not to mention whatever outside forces might throw at them)

Anna says

Not sure what to really say about this book I think I skipped through most of it and that is something I try not to do. The blurb was interesting but the book just didn't warrant a good rating.

Lucy says

3.5

A vegan werewolf!! Just the idea made me smile. The story is told in first person from the POV of Kyle, a newcomer to the Boston area. He has a slight crush on his neighbor, Tobias, who he sees naked in the garden one night. He looks back, and there is a dog? Wolf? In the garden instead. He goes to bed and believes it to be a dream.

That day, Tobias invites Kyle to a party, where he can meet the neighbors. Kyle is curious as to the sudden interest, as he's been there for three months, but accepts. The party is awkward, and when Tobias walks him home, works him up then pulls away with a "I can't do this now but can't tell you why", I wanted Kyle to grow a spine. No, instead he immediately caves and offers to make Tobias dinner.

They meet the next morning to go out for coffee, and Tobias promises to explain, except, of course, he doesn't. It is round about and he expects Kyle to just accept it. I was happy to see this time, Kyle doesn't. He refuses to start anything until he has an explanation, which Tobias promises to provide at dinner. Meanwhile, Kyle is warned away from Tobias by Mrs. Frelich, the only neighbor Kyle thought of as a friend. Another neighbor, Melia, hates him on sight. It is this neighbor who attacks Kyle and transforms him, though she was hoping to kill him.

He has to adjust to being a werewolf, and handle Tobias, who has serious mood swings. At one point he almost hits Kyle. Add in that love is considered a weakness, and gay even weaker.

The constant reminders from Tobias that Kyle act submissive got irritating, regardless of the reason. When they finally get around to having sex, (Tobias first time with a man, no less) however, it is sweet, caring, funny and loving. I love that Kyle is no nonsense, as well as funny.

"I traced his ear with a fingertip and he shivered again. "Last question and then we can enjoy ourselves. Giving or receiving?"

"Huh?" He opened his eyes and stared at me. "You mean... Oh, shit, of course that's what you mean."

"Nope, no shit. We'll shower first."

I adored Kyle. Tobias is more difficult, mainly due to who he is required to be, but as the book continues, he

becomes more likeable and sympathetic. They go through a lot to be together, though Kyle has by far the most adjusting. "unless you do something stupid, I will never hurt you". Umm, not very reassuring. The pack law can be archaic and downright stupid. Kyle is willing to acknowledge this, while still supporting his man. I liked the story as a whole, though there is a lot of talking that sometimes drags. All in all, an enjoyable shifter book.

Enny says

The idea of a vegan werewolf is interesting and the two main characters are very cute together but the rest of the pack are awful chatterboxes. Kyle sums it up perfectly: *"This pack talked way too much."* Unfortunately the author chose to disagree with her MC and so the book is filled with page after page of endless discussions about wolf politics. Salad on the Side was a 2.5 star read for me and I gave it an extra half star for the writing style.

Shanna says

This book started off with a cute and promising premise, a vegan werewolf. Unfortunately that wasn't enough to sustain the story. There were way too many plot points and sub plots that just created an unnecessary and uninteresting muddle. The characters were fun but the plot just didn't gel for me. I also thought that this book could use a little more editing. Many times a character trait or piece of background would be introduced only to be contradicted later in the book. This was confusing and very frustrating. I think with a little trimming and a tighter plot this book would be good, as it is it's just a little too rough around the edges.

Christy says

3.5 Stars ~ It's no secret that I am mad, MAD I tell you, about shifter stories. In fact, I've run out of ways to describe my obsession. I'll read them all, wolves, felines, elephants, exotics, etc. etc. etc. It doesn't matter how long the book or how short, how detailed or not, I'll read it. I imagine it stems from my immense love of wildlife and if I could pick one supernatural power, then I'd like to be able to shift. I love the serious stories and the quirky ones, the funny, and the sexy. So, it's no surprise that when I ran across a series titled 'Real Werewolves Don't Eat Meat', I was all about reading that. 'Salad on the Side' is the first book in the series and I was excited to read it.

One of the things I noticed right off the bat in this author's world building, is that I wasn't getting any stereotypes in the main characters. For me, that means I wasn't going to be reading about the alpha and a much weaker man. Oh no. Kyle is nobody's doormat and he is absolutely Tobias's equal. Kyle makes it plain that he won't consider even attempting a relationship until Tobias comes clean with whatever he's hiding. Because Kyle knows he's hiding something, and it's obviously something important. Tobias doesn't get a chance to reveal all to Kyle. Why? Well, a bitch in his pack, Melia, wants Kyle gone because she wants Tobias for herself. So Melia, in wolf form, attacks Kyle in the garden and bites him. She'd hoped that would kill him. Instead, it made Kyle a werewolf too.

Life as a werewolf doesn't start out so well for Kyle. There are all kinds of rules that Kyle doesn't know, and Tobias's alpha power voice doesn't work on him, which confuses them both. But even if it doesn't work, Kyle still has to appear submissive to Tobias in front of the pack. Add all of this confusion to the fact that the pack members do not like Tobias's interest in Kyle. They see it as weak, which is what all weres view homosexuality as. Uh. Oh. It gets worse. Three members of Tobias's pack petition to leave and he grants it. They go to the alpha of the City Pack, Chal, who, incidentally, allows Tobias to be alpha of Boston North pack even though it, technically, falls under the purview of the City Pack. So, now Chal wants to meet with Tobias, his beta, his peacemaker, and Kyle to determine whether Tobias is strong enough to lead his pack. Ahhhhhh, politics. Gotta hate them.

I have to admit the author deviated a little from where I thought she'd go which made the ending more interesting. I very much enjoyed this story but I'm looking forward to the next one because I'm hoping to get a better feel for the kind of men Tobias and Kyle are. I like the world the author has created as I'm always partial to the fated mate mythology. Overall I liked this story and am anticipating the next one.

NOTE: This book was provided by MLR Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Kallunnah says

Cute idea ruined by awkward writing. I really wanted to like it but the main characters were so uninteresting I couldn't even get through past the first party.

Bubbles Huntly Honest & Direct Opinions says

[After Kyle meets the Pack the next day Tobi is apologizing for the attitude of one of the women there. Ky
