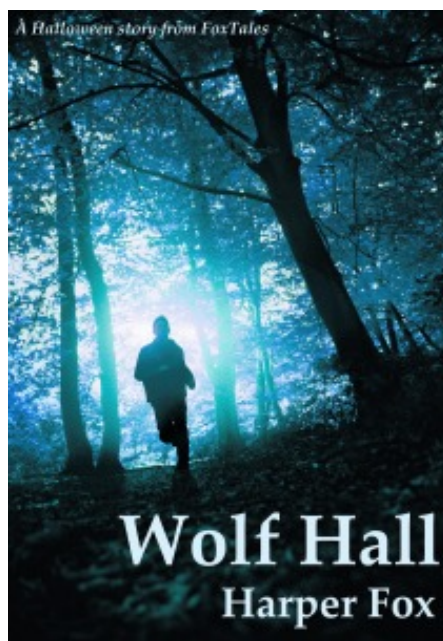




Wolf Hall

Harper Fox

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Wolf Hall Harper Fox

Once upon a time, a family lived up on the wild northern moors. They were clever and attractive, close-knit and polite. And everyone left them strictly alone...

Halloween is a wild, weird night in the lonely moorland towns of the north. It's dark and cold, and cracks can open up in the fabric of the safest world.

Davey Bell has been trying to live safely. He's struggled through a rough adolescence and has a decent job, a home of his own. He agrees to a meeting with his ex, even though Burdo got him into so much trouble in the past.

But Burdo has plans, armed robbery amongst them. When Davey recoils from his efforts at blackmail, Burdo swears he'll track him down. There's something inhuman about Burdo's rage, and Davey panics and runs from him. The town is small, the darkness beyond it absolute. Davey has lived there all his life, but he takes a wrong turn on the moorland road and is suddenly lost.

It's the first night of winter, and set to freeze hard. Not much chance of survival for a man without shelter, a man on the run from his past... Then Davey stumbles into the forest, and his fears of Burdo and the cold dissolve to nothing at the sound of deep, bestial growls.

The moon is full. Ancient moorland legends are coming to life in its silvery radiance. Out of the woodland steps a strange young man, and the snarling beasts fall back. He's offering sanctuary, but at what price? He's the most beautiful creature Davey has ever seen. If Davey follows him in fascination through the gateway of Wolf Hall, what secrets will unfold before the dawn?

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Wolf Hall Details

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From Reader Review Wolf Hall for online ebook

Lila says

I am a huge fan of Harper Fox, but this story didn't impress me.

Basic premise is 1)very common and overused in romance fiction - not even Harper Fox with her amazing prose could have saved it.

2)poorly delivered after great opening scene - this scenes seemed detached from rest of the story. From the moment David gets to Wolf Hall, story gets this...surreal and weird feeling where you are supposed to wonder what's real. Only you're not because check point 1)

I love she writes these Holiday shorts, but this is not even close to originality and quality of Tyack and Frayne series.

Trio says

Nice little short story. The narrator (Tim Gilbert) was very good.

Sean says

Okay. I gave this a five-star rating at first, and then had to drop it to a four-star. The reason is clear for me. I finished the book, and like other reviewers, was not happy with the ambiguity of the ending, unless this, in fact, becomes a series. Let me put it this way: I lost track of time reading this book at work, and actually forgot I was at work. It has a good foundation, but needs more growth to become a five-star. It should really be a series, and expound upon the characters of the Devlin family, as well as the protagonist, David Bell. I was riveted by thi book, but it's like when you're starving and your main course ends up as small as an appetizer and that's all you get.

Ulysses Dietz says

Wolf Hall

By Harper Fox

Four stars

I suppose one could say that not everything Harper Fox writes is as good as everything else she writes.

But I've never read anything by her that I didn't like. The worst of her writing is better than most of what's out there.

This short Hallowe'en novella (or long Hallowe'en story) is just the sort of thing that proves to me Ms. Fox's skill as a writer and as a storyteller. While I often find novellas and stories frustrating because there's just not enough in them, I find that Fox manages to create short works that are satisfying and fully formed.

"Wolf Hall" is a perfect, shivery Hallowe'en treat. A rich chocolate truffle of a story, in which the humans are monsters and the monsters are human. As usual, Fox draws us in with mortal frailty, with unhealed wounds. David Bell is the unlucky victim who blindly stumbles into the lair of something unearthly and unknown—only to discover that what he's found is better than anything he's known before.

Fox also doesn't belabor things or attempt to over-explain. By avoiding such heavy-handedness, the reader is forced to actually fill in gaps with his own prior knowledge of the more and manners of paranormal fiction. This is what I call subtlety, and it is surprisingly gratifying to read something that flatters your intelligence.

And, of course, Fox is always intensely romantic without being soppy. I never think of Hallowe'en as a romantic event. It is more about a celebration of the dark side of humanity, about the thin line between good and evil. But Fox contorts that premise, making it more about the line between known and unknown, and about the possible joy of embracing that unknown rather than fearing it.

I'd love to see a novel-length treatment of "Wolf Hall," but only because the characters are so interesting for the brief time we see them that I would love to get to know them better.

Eugenia says

Hauntingly lovely. I think those words describe much of Harper Fox's writing, and this short was no exception.

A young man escaping a monster from his past, flees into the woods one Halloween night only to stumble upon a beautiful stranger who squires him off to Wolf Hall, his home.

Secrets are traded, but not necessarily believed. After all, werewolves are the stuff of myths and legends. There's a dungeon, and chains, and tenderness before the hearth. A change occurs in both young men where secrets revealed are accepted, and together they face them.

Beautifully narrated by Tim Gilbert.

Ami says

DNF at 40%

Nope. Confusing and disorienting. It left me cold and perplexed. Note it down as DNF so I wouldn't have to try again *shrugs*.

PS: And the dry spell continues

Natasha says

NEW HARPER FOX?! <333

Molli B. says

2.5 rounded up to a 3. The writing, as always, was good (atmosphere, turn of phrase). But the story itself was weird. It left me a bit perplexed. I love Harper's stuff, and I'll read it all, but this was not my favorite thing of hers. It's nice to see an attempt at a unique perspective when it comes to the paranormal aspects of the story, but I had a hard time following what was going on--the mythology was murky and I don't really get it, even in retrospect. Also, the first part of the story with Burdo was only tenuously connected to the second half. Baffling. Just kinda baffled all around.

Kathleen says

2.5 stars

This. This is why I hate most short stories. You just start to get some good forward momentum and BAM! It's over. I adore Harper Fox's books. She's fabulously talented. But this short story medium doesn't work for me. Want to read some great short stories? Josh Lanyon is arguably the best in our genre.

Meep says

Not to Harper's usual standard.

Meh!

Cristina says

A charming Halloween short story by the always excellent Harper Fox.

Although not as good as some of her other books, I've enjoyed reading this story combining the scary shadows of Halloween night with the troubles of an ordinary boy and the mischief of a young shifter.

The quality of the writing is, as usual, of a high standard and I love the cover - very atmospheric and evocative.

Only regret: deciding to read it on the hottest May Bank Holiday on record rather than on the appropriate October night... This may call for a more suitable re-reading when the right times comes.

Steelwhisper says

The usual great Harper Fox-prose, yet the story and the characters left me cold. I couldn't get into this.

Lori says

Harper Fox evokes atmosphere and feeling like no other. This short story is neat and clever and wonderful. It might not be a sweeping tale of love that is most often represented in romance genres, but it is there, beneath the halloween story, beneath the acknowledgement of self worth. It's there.....

.....maybe to be continued in a follow on story? I can only hope! Though this works beautifully on its own, a follow up would be wonderful, there is so much potential with these characters and events depicted and told in this book.

Reviews show me this book wasn't for everyone -but it most definitely was for me.

Simon says

I love harper's style, I love her plots I love her writing. I just didn't feel this was her best work. It felt a little rushed, ambiguous, lacking. Starts beautifully, in true Ms Fox style, and I know it's a short story but it just didn't work for me. This was a 2.5 marked up to 3 stars, but I can't wait to read her next full length novel. (Sorry Harper, just not a good one).

Heller says

I enjoy Harper Fox's writing usually. This story didn't really grab me in anyway and it ended ambiguously which, if there isn't a sequel in the works, I don't like.

Great descriptions of the moors and a lovely atmospheric piece from that end and while I enjoyed the characters of David and Lowrie the read just didn't work for me and I struggled to finish it. Maybe I just wasn't in the right mood for it.
