



Feral Dust Bunnies

Angel Martinez

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An orphaned kitten may be the only witness to romance and the impossible.

Officer Alex Wolf responds to a lot of ‘paranormal’ calls that aren’t. Exotic pet birds aren’t monsters and unusual dog breeds aren’t aliens. It’s a good thing he likes the animal control officers, but he both yearns for and dreads those calls where he runs into ACO Jason Shen. Jason’s scent is so delicious that Wolf has a difficult time humaning around him.

Animal control calls take a disturbing turn, though, when Wolf and his lizard-man partner, Krisk, discover the impossibly mummified bodies of rats and an unfortunate mother cat. The rescue of the cat’s sole surviving kitten not only gives Wolf more time with Jason, which is both perplexing and wonderful, but also leads to dangerous discoveries. Something inconceivable stalks the city and its officers of the law. Wolf has to figure out what it is before it can attack and drain the life from the people and the kitten he loves.

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Feral Dust Bunnies Details

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Andrea says

Fun!

Nila says

The characters and setting in this story confused me, as I am intensely literal-minded these days. No whimsy or imagination for me. That being so, this book was like some yummy food in a foreign land. I think I like it, but I'll wait for another meal or two before I make it a favorite.

Daesy says

Sometimes Alex Wolf seemed way younger than 28, and that disturbed me a bit...he sounded almost like a teenager and I wasn't really sure he and Jason were good together as couple. In the end I still liked them, but the book was a bit boring. I wanted to know more about the curse that made Alex human, and about what happened to his pack. The Kitten was cute, but the fact that all called her Wolf's baby wolf/daughter, made me cringe, bcs it seemed they really thought that. I love animals and I consider my dogs my best friends and my cat the same, but how ppl talked about that kitten, and acted with her, in this book was a bit too much....

Rated 3 stars (rounded up)

Lada says

Adorable MC with his adorable kitten, plus an interesting mystery that involved the whole squad, and a pretty nice romance. I definitely liked this one better than the previous one. Oh, I also want Krisk as the MC for next book.

Read Ami's review for more coherent thoughts ;)

?? Michaelle 🍷?? says

4.3 Stars

I think Wolf might be my new favorite character for this series; his attempts at "humaning" were both hilarious and heart-breaking. But man, his mom ROCKS!

Elena says

The mystery of this fourth book was a little disappointing. It started off pretty well and the breakthrough in the case would have been interesting, if the surprise effect hadn't already been spoiled by the title. In the end it was obvious that this case wasn't much more than a step toward future developments.

Regarding the characters and the relationship part, I liked Alex and enjoyed his unique and often adorable perspective on the world, but sometimes his way of thinking sounded too much like that of a child for my comfort, especially regarding his relationship with his mother.

I also didn't feel much emotional investment on Jason's part. He was great about accepting and understanding Wolf as he is, but he seemed to be keeping himself distant from their relationship.

I think the romance suffered from being relegated to third position after the case and the kitten. The kitten was adorable, but did she really have to be central in any single scene? Don't get me wrong, I like cats and she was an adorable little bundle of cuteness, I just don't have enough maternal instinct to care about how many times a kitten gets fed or how well she's sleeping or using her litter box. There's a reason I avoid romances with babies.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

3.5 stars

I'm a super-fan of the awesome Offbeat Crimes series. I think all fans of quirky, fun paranormal novellas should try this series, starting with Lime Gelatin and Other Monsters. However, that being said, this isn't my favorite book of the bunch.

Don't get me wrong, this book was FUN, with an interesting plot and a great pace, but the romance... just "meh" for me.

Alex was GREAT, and I loved his relationship with his adoptive mother. I could have used an even longer book about Alex, he was just that interesting. I also adored his dynamic with Krisk, his mute, reptilian partner. I'm rooting for Krisk's story next, though I'd be pretty much happy with anyone in the department as the MC.

However, Jason... dude. I liked that he was cute with animals, but I found his hot/cold attitude and his sort of rude behavior towards Alex to be off-putting. Maybe if we had had his POV or maybe if it was a longer book it would have worked, but I wasn't really rooting for them as a couple.

When it comes down to it, though I really enjoyed the energetic story, the romance was just not there for me. Even still, it was a worthwhile read, and I ALWAYS encourage everyone to try this really entertaining series.

Copy provided in exchange for an honest review

Sammy Goode says

: I am fairly sure I have uttered these same words the last time I read a book in this series, but it bears repeating, I absolutely love the Offbeat Crimes series by author Angel Martinez. These stories are cleverly written with a quirky cast of characters who never fail to entertain. The latest, Feral Dust Bunnies, brings together the same motley and undaunted crew of the paranormal precinct, this time focusing on Alex Wolf and his partner, Krisk.

We finally get to find out about Alex's past and how a wolf became human and was later adopted by a couple of loving and caring scientists. We are also given an insight into how Alex is able to communicate with his lizard partner, Krisk who hisses and tail thumps his way through most conversations unless he is texting his partner with uniquely Krisk-like messages.

When the two officers are sent out to investigate a supposed alien they discover something far more disturbing—the desiccated remains of two rats in an abandoned alleyway. Wolf and Krisk aren't too concerned until they find yet another animal similarly attacked leaving behind a young kitten and forcing Wolf to call in animal control in order to further investigate. But interacting with Officer Jason Shen from animal control has thrown poor Alex into a tizzy. Besides continually grappling with understanding human proclivities, Alex is also a disaster at relationships—but Jason is different. As things heat up between the two of them, the case also takes on a decided twist when it's discovered that whoever is behind the life sucking feral dust bunnies may actually be targeting Alex himself.

Once again author Angel Martinez offers up a paranormal mystery liberally laced with humor, a rapidly paced plot line and an unusual bad guy, er, dust bunny. Through the musings of this author's cleverly diabolical mind, we get to read a story rife with romance, suspense and just plain fun. Much like the other characters before him I found myself falling in love with Alex Wolf. His inability to always read human responses correctly has left his tender heart bruised and gun shy. The idea that this burly, growly man could bond with a tiny kitten and tentatively reach out for happiness with Jason was really lovely to watch. However, the real bonus here is it's all written so cleverly that the storyline is never cloying or dramatic but rather a wonderful relationship we get to watch blossom.

While this novel ends a bit abruptly, it merely whets the appetite for the next in the series. I am eager to see who will be the focus of the next book or perhaps it will be one to wrap up the many loose ends the current one leaves dangling. Either way, I know I will eagerly await whatever author Angel Martinez offers up next.

Relly says

My Favourite so far

4 Stars

This one is my favourite so far in this series

I loved Wolf and Jason together, but Wolf was my favourite.

I enjoyed seeing his partnership with Krisk and how they communicate, also how he tried to work out how the world works and how to fit in. I loved his relationship with his mother, and how she took care of him, but also tried to teach him to live on his own. Audacity was beautiful

Amy Aelleah says

The funniest book so far. I mean, the others were funny in that weird, quirky way, but this one - mostly

thanks to Wolf - was the most laugh funny. I was a little unsure of Wolf being the lead. I mean, he's a wolf that was turned human, so how's that going to work? But it worked really well, because he's not too human but nor is he too wolf. There's a lot of communication between Wolf and Jason, so that was good. However, I can already tell that Jason has problems and, truly, he's my least favorite character in the series so far. (And that's including all the officers of the 77th and Ras. That's including Vance.) So I'm a little worried about the next book being his part of the story.

Malinda says

4 stars

This was a very enjoyable story. I will note that I read this book because I needed to read Jackalopes & Woofen-Poofs for a challenge and this book is where Alex and Jason's relationship begins so I thought I'd read it first. Although I was able to get through this story alright, I wouldn't call this a total standalone. There are a lot of things about the characters and the "world" in general that aren't explained. In other mid-series books by other authors, there might be a few sentences to quickly explain something or someone before going on with the story but in this book there's no explanations, like the author just assumes you already know this from previous books. This was the first story I've read by this author and I liked this story well enough that I'm sure I'll try more of her work in the future but I'll definitely start from the beginning of the series next time.

Alex Wolf is a police officer at the 77th precinct (for the paranormal crimes division) in Philadelphia. His team is a bit unusual and has a lot of unclassified paranormal on it...one of which is Alex. Alex was a real wolf cub when he was born but he was cursed as a juvenile wolf and turned into a 12 year old boy. He was adopted and taught how to live as a human but he still has issues at times. Alex has very good senses of smell and hearing but can't transform into a wolf.

Jason is a human that works for the animal control department in Philadelphia. Jason is gay and open about it. Unfortunately, although he loves his family, they don't seem to be comfortable about his sexuality and tend to ignore it. Jason is a very kind man that has a soft spot for animals and has a house full of pets he's rescued in his job.

Jason and Alex run into each other frequently on their jobs. Alex loves the smell of Jason and wants to lick him but has held off on making any moves as he's unsure of Jason's feelings towards him. Alex often has problems with understanding human motivations and subtle behaviors so he has been cautious about his actions towards Jason. Things change a bit when Alex ends up rescuing a kitten who's mother was killed by a magical monster causing problems around town. The kitten imprints on Alex and refused to eat or stop crying until Alex showed up...which basically means that Alex has to adopt her.

With all the additional interactions between Jason and Alex because of the kitten, they finally get their acts together and go on a date. Things go well and their relationship escalates quickly. There are a few issues, mostly caused by a bit of mis-communication that caused some confusion between Alex and Jason but overall, nothing too major. Once things get hashed out, things between Jason and Alex go pretty smoothly. The magical badness is also figured out (to a point at least) and things end nicely, with Jason and Alex doing well and heading towards a HEA together.

This was a very enjoyable story. I liked both Alex and Jason. Alex had such issues trying to figure out the world sometimes and I'm glad that Jason was able to appreciate his uniqueness and accept him. They seemed to make a pretty good couple but I know more happens to them in the next book so we'll see how things end

for them in book #5. I would recommend this book if you've read the previous books in the series. :)

Ami says

3.75 stars rounded up

I LOVE going back to Martinez's *Offbeat Crimes* universe ... with the officers of the 77th paranormal crimes unit. **Feral Dust Bunnies** is book #4 and it's time for Alex Wolf to be the center character.

Alex is a wolf cursed to become a human ... but he still retains some of his wolf nature (his nose is excellent smell sensor for example) and I ADORED him so very much. Alex sometimes still finds human customs and behaviors to be befuddling. When Alex realizes that he is attracted to Animal Control Officer Jason Shen, he just acts all awkward and CUTE!

"I'm sorry. What was that?"

He squirmed and let out a long breath. "I want to lick him."

"Oh, dear." Mom's forehead wrinkled in concern. "You haven't licked him, have you?"

I loved Alex's relationship with his adopted mother. I loved his bumbling reactions in handling his attraction to Jason. Of course when Alex himself pretty much got imprinted by a kitten -- that he names Audacity because she is a determined little furball -- it elevated the level of cuteness to the max and I just ♥ Alex even more!!

Now I'm not really sure about Jason though. Yeah, I really liked the guy because he was good with animals (men with pets, I adore them). But I also thought Jason was being a jerk when he acted all distant after Alex asked him to be his date to Kash and Kyle's wedding. (view spoiler)

Similar to the other books in this series, there is a paranormal mystery to be solved of course. While the case on this book is finished, the officers realize there is a bigger mystery for them; that there is someone responsible in creating all the paranormal havoc lately. So I assume this will be the arc for the whole series and will be continued in book #5.

Vivian says

Love this series because it's fun and quirky and just a twist of ridiculous that makes reading it fun. Feral dust bunnies, I am right? Somehow the concept seemed fun, but it didn't work for me. I don't know if it's because I'm really off romance right now in my reading, I enjoyed the paranormal police plot, but the ending seemed to fall fast and without satisfying resolution.

Alex Wolf is adorkable. Truly, sweet and socially awkward as a wolf-human, not werewolf, he's spent a lot of time trying to understand people. It's frustrating and he feels like he makes wrong steps, but he's got a great partner, Krisk, and his mother. On the job, after many interactions, he finally connects with animal

control officer, Jason Shen. It's sweet and awkward--honestly, I feel like it may be me, but I didn't connect with them as a couple very well. I'm sure that I'm not a cat person didn't help, either.

Anyway, the story was more interesting than the romance for me and I felt a little shorted in that department since so much time had to be devoted to explaining Wolf's view of the world and how it differed than most individuals, including paranormals. Looking forward to the next one in the series.

Kathleen says

This is my least favorite of the series, primarily because it felt unfinished. I quite liked the main couple, but I didn't feel the mystery had been solved at all. I was left hanging, while the last 10% of the book was a "preview" of the *previous* book in the series. Go figure.

Serena Yates says

This fourth book set in Angel Martinez's world of Philadelphia's 77th Precinct with its paranormally defective members focuses on one of the more enigmatic team members, Alex Wolf. I also got to find out a lot more about Wolf's detective partner, silent lizard-man Krisk, who communicates by text and the odd grunt here or there. This time the intrepid officers face mummified animals, a lonely kitten, and some truly dangerous discoveries. It's all hands on deck as they have to figure out what's stalking them before it is too late.

Alex Wolf, who goes by "Wolf" for short, has a somewhat murky past, lives with the woman who adopted him, and still has trouble behaving like a human at times. His interactions with his mother and her attempts to teach him human skills (like ironing his shirts) are hilarious. Wolf works well with the animal control officers, so he is the first to respond to their calls as mummified animal bodies turn up. It gives Wolf ample opportunity to spend time with Jason, one of the animal control officers involved. And as confused as Wolf is about his attraction to the human, he is reluctant to do anything about it. If he even knew what he was supposed to do!

Jason is delightfully unaware of the exact nature of the man he is visibly falling for. But he is not easily scared, and anyway, a man who likes an orphaned kitten enough to take her home can't be a complete disaster, right? And when he finally asks Wolf out for lunch and finds out the truth, he barely blinks an eye. There are a couple of starts and stops to their romance as Jason battles the reality of their romance and Wolf bumbles along, but the surprising discoveries for both men keep coming and, in the end, they are definitely very hot together.

The main plot around the desiccated animals thickens as the danger grows – and I really can't reveal much more than that without a huge spoiler. I will say that I loved the improbability of this story as much as that of previous volumes, and the various subplots around the other characters added a lot to my enjoyment as well. Kyle and Kash are back in a big way, and I hope they stay involved in future stories as much as they have been so far. They are such great guys!

If you like the crazy paranormal world of the 77th Precinct and can't get enough of their amazing adventures, if you want to know how a wolf-man without the finer human graces and an animal control officer manage to figure out they belong together, and if you're looking for a mystery that is a little darker than previous ones in this series but just as well-constructed, then you will probably like this novella. I definitely look forward

to the next one!

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