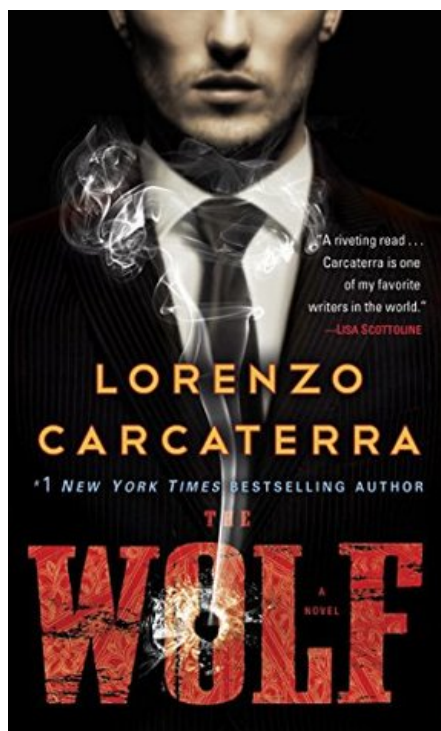




The Wolf

Lorenzo Carcaterra

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The Wolf

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The Wolf Lorenzo Carcaterra

In this thrilling novel by Lorenzo Carcaterra—the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Sleepers*, *Gangster*, and *Midnight Angels*—organized crime goes to war with international terrorism in the name of one man’s quest for revenge.

My name is Vincent Marelli, though most people call me The Wolf. You’ve never met me, and if you’re lucky you never will. But in more ways than you could think of, I own you.

I run the biggest criminal operation in the world. We’re invisible but we’re everywhere. Wherever you go, whatever you do, however it is you spend your money, a piece of it lands in our pockets.

You would think that with that kind of power I would be invincible. You would be wrong. I made a mistake, one that a guy like me can never afford to make. I let my guard down. And because I did, my wife and daughters are gone. Murdered by terrorists with a lethal ax to grind.

That was *my* mistake.

But it was also *theirs*.

I wasn’t looking for a war with them. No one in my group was. But they’ve left me with nothing but a desire for revenge—so a war is what they’ll get. The full strength of international organized crime against every known terrorist group working today. Crime versus chaos.

We will protect our interests, and I will protect my son. We won’t get them all, but I will get my revenge, or I will die trying.

They will know my name.

They will feel my wrath.

They will fear The Wolf.

Praise for Lorenzo Carcaterra

“Crackles with action . . . a riveting and ingenious read that will keep you turning the pages.”—**Douglas Preston**, on *Midnight Angels*

“A powerful read . . . with plenty of action and dialogue as authentic as the streets of New York.” —**St. Petersburg Times** , on *Paradise City*

“Terrifying and heartbreaking . . . a brilliant, troubling, important book.”—**Jonathan Kellerman**, on *Sleepers*

“A brilliant, multilayered novel that breathes and bleeds on every page. This book transcends the genre of crime fiction. It is a full-blooded novel and an epic read.”—**Robert Crais**, on *Gangster*

The Wolf Details

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Author : Lorenzo Carcaterra

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From Reader Review The Wolf for online ebook

Keri says

4 STARS - I REALLY LIKED IT
AUDIOBOOK

I was in the mood for a good mafia story and I got it with this one. I liked the characters and I liked the plot... there was conspiracy and intrigue and you're never quite sure who you can truly trust and who you can't. The only issue I had while reading was that the main character, Vincent, who is also the narrator of the story, stopped to give background information too much. Something would happen and Vincent would then explain to us why this was important or what it means in the big picture. Some of that was good and necessary, but some of it the author could have assumed that we would inherently understand or could draw a sound conclusion on our own.

This story has a partial conclusion, it will continue in the next book which I will be reading!

Jennifer Boyce says

<http://bookreviewsbyme2.wordpress.com...>

This book took me a few chapters to get engrossed in, and I honestly wasn't holding out much hope for the story. I'm glad that I decided to stick with the story because by the fourth or fifth chapter I was truly sucked into a fascinating read.

The story follows "The Wolf" or Vincent, a young man/criminal mastermind, who recently lost his wife and two daughters to a terrorist attack. Reeling from the aftermath of the killing, Vincent sets out for revenge, starting a war between all of the professional criminal organizations and all of the terrorist organizations.

This story thrilling, but also causes the reader to think a little bit about professional criminals and terrorists. I never really thought about the difference in criminal forms before reading this book, but while reading this story it really got me thinking. While I was thinking about the difference in criminal forms, though, I was still completely engrossed in the action of this book.

The action in this book is subtle and diabolical. The author takes the reader on a step-by-step journey of the war between the organizations. While the majority of the book, especially the beginning, takes place in "the boardroom" it's easy to feel the tension as the action escalates to stopping bombs before they go off. The author did a breathtaking job of building up the conflict and leading the reader through the process, instead of just jumping right into the action.

The characters in this book were all unusually interesting. Vincent, as a mob boss yet still a loving father, was a very dynamic and engaging character. His pain over the loss of his wife and daughters was evident, yet he kept his head in the game in order to exact his revenge on the terrorists who destroyed his family. Jimmy, Vincent's handicapped brother, was also another dynamic character. I did not expect Vincent to have a handicapped brother, especially one he routinely goes to for advice. Jimmy definitely added a new and refreshing dimension to the stereotypical criminal storyline.

The narrative shifts between first and third person do take a little bit of getting used to, but luckily there is a clear pattern. When the story is from Vincent's perspective, the author uses first person to describe conversations and events that take place within that section. If the point of view is from any other character's perspective, the author uses third person to describe the action. While normally not a fan of shifting narratives, I found that this style was very effective for this book. It allowed the reader to truly feel as if they were right there with Vincent, or that he was describing the details to them after the fact.

Regardless of the narrative shifts (even though I didn't find them problematic), I was rather fond of this author's writing style. The author did a fantastic job of making me feel, while reading, that I was right there in the midst of the action. It's a rare book that can truly make me *feel* the events, but this author put me right there.

Although this book does take a few chapters to get immersed into, it is definitely worth the read. The unique story, dynamic characters, and refreshing writing style make this book a joy to read. Definitely a book that I would recommend for any reader who is a fan of criminal thrillers. I will definitely be looking for more books written by this author in the future.

I received this book for review purposes via NetGalley.

Ash Wednesday says

3.5 STARS

Sometimes you need to live beyond the reach of the law to bring down those who walked its edges.

Well I am a big fan of *The Godfather* (who isn't?) so when I read the blurb and a few of the early reviews for this, I was pretty intrigued by the idea of different criminal organizations coming together to bring terrorists to their own brand of justice. The thought of The Yakuza, The Triads, The Greek Mob and La Cosa Nostra coming together to plot against The Russians, The Mexican Cartel and Middle Eastern Fundamentalists... that's some seriously amazing Happy Hour.

And them going to the mattresses against each other? It's like pot and kettle-related hostilities over water boiling talents. Fun times.

I quite enjoyed this book in certain stretches for the creative action sequences and the great tension build up where it was warranted. The scenes in the airport, in the New York streets and the dinner sequence between Vincent and Angela were written with such tautness, the only way it would have been better was if this was written by George RR Martin. I loved Carcaterra's treatment of the gangster lifestyle, incorporating the societal and cultural values that I loved about *The Godfather* without romanticizing it. Much.

For a genre that often treats women as either the compassionate matriarch or the token heroine to get killed with a car bomb or the baker of poisoned cannolis, I appreciate the evolution of the female mobster in Angela Jannetti. I was initially wary with her introduction as a beautiful and smart woman because anytime THOSE kinds of heroines get introduced in these kinds of stories, it's a struggle to keep the eyes from rolling. I'm so glad to be proven wrong over and over as she's easily one of the most badass heroines I've read in contemporary fiction. I will probably pick up the next book just for her given the nature of how things.

But despite the compelling storyline of a mourning father and husband, ruthlessly seeking to avenge his family, I found some parts of *The Wolf* draggy and redundant. I suppose I did enjoy the attention to gangster historical facts and the art history crash course but it was all delivered in an info dumpy manner that my mind can't help but wander elsewhere. I found the portrayal of Vincent's organization's notoriety redundant in what can only be described as hearsay. I thought I would enjoy the strategic to and fro between both camps but only grew bored with the empty and repetitive self-exaltations from Vincent and Raza's long and winded soliloquies about life and the privilege of death. It was all too documentary-ish and emotionally sterile and maybe I'm in the wrong for looking for these things in a book like this but with the scenes portraying Vincent as a loving father to his son, I can hardly be blamed to expect some human feels, right? I personally felt very little with the reveal of Raza's plans and felt it very alienating to some extent. Because while it is quite horrible to contemplate works of art being targeted in a terrorist attack, I'm not quite sure the threat and intimidation would echo as effectively as this was making it to be.

Unless you're an Art History Major.

The who's-the-traitor plot twist and its repercussions were hardly impressive in it's shock value. It even came across this side of pathetic to be honest, when this was evidently trying to make it seem tragic. It wasn't.

The OTHER plot twist towards the end was hardly a surprise but does bring a lot of promise to the table for a second book.

So a slight disappointment this one, but I've seen the treatment of the Mafia genre done way worse than this. Yes Sempre, I'm looking at you.

Review Copy courtesy of the publishers.

Also on Booklikes.

Book Addict Shaun says

Lorenzo Carcaterra is one of my favourite authors and a new book has been a long time coming and I'm glad to say that it did not disappoint. If ever a book was just perfect to be made into a film then it is this one. There's so many scenes and lines that could be quoted it's ridiculous. I went into this book hoping for something similar to one of my favourite books of all time, *The Godfather* and it was.

The idea is Vincent Marelli (*The Wolf*) heads up a crime syndicate formed of all the various crime families and organizations around the world. They control pretty much everything and take a dollar from virtually every transaction in the world. They deal with insane amounts of money and up to now it has been a success. Then Vincent's wife and daughters die when a plane is taken over by terrorists. Meanwhile the Russians are funding terrorists to carry attacks out around the world and Vincent wants to stop this whilst at the same time avenging the death of his family.

The chapters from the point of view of the Wolf were almost like the narration of a film - you could almost hear Vincent's voice in your head whilst at the same time vividly picturing the scenes he was telling you about. That for me added to the excitement of the novel and made it seem more authentic and 'real', yes it's fiction but at times it came across as fact as the character of Vincent was so well created.

The idea of an organization like this is both fascinating and horrifying. It would change the world as we know it in good ways but mostly in bad ways. On paper the idea works but what are the realistic chances of the Yakuza, Triads, Greeks etc all pooling their resources together? Very slim and so for that reason there is a definite suspension of belief regarding that aspect but this is fiction and definitely not a reason to criticize the book.

The story moves at an extremely fast pace with alternative chapters from Vincent, some members of his crew, Vladimir - the Russian funding the terrorist attacks and Raza, a terrorist Vincent is determined to take down. The death toll is massive but ultimately it all adds to the excitement of the novel helping to make it as action packed as possible. With all the crime bosses working together there's obviously going to be clash of egos and opinions and that's where the conflict comes in. Who can Vincent trust not to stab him in the back? People all have their own agendas and that makes for a more exciting read because we know there's a threat from the Russians and terrorists but what about the people he is supposed to be able to trust?

What I would have liked is for the book to have been longer. This would have allowed for the characters' back-stories to have been expanded more or for the overall story to have been expanded. It wasn't rushed by any means but I was gutted when the book was over and could have read for a lot longer. The two characters that were the most well created were Vincent and Angela Jannetti (known as The Strega). Angela leads the Camorra and despite being on the same side her and Vincent were once in love but both would ultimately have one day become the 'boss' and how could that have worked were they husband and wife? Their relationship was electric and very intense on the page and their history was so well told that again it could almost be factual rather than a work of fiction.

I finished this book long before I was ready to leave the characters behind and for that reason I can only hope that there's a second book featuring the Wolf and that it comes soon. There's so many questions still requiring answers and scores still to be settled and in my opinion this series has legs and could become huge and I can't wait to see how it will all play out. Definitely a book not to miss.

Thanks to the publisher for the review copy via NetGalley.

Ryan Dejonghe says

I love when I'm wrong. Today a whole bunch of books released that I'm doing reviews for. I've had them organized, mainly by initial interest. Another mafia book? Yeah, we'll just chuck that on the bottom under the self-help books. I mean, really, what interest could there be in another mafia book? Like I said, I love it when I'm wrong.

THE WOLF by Lorenzo Carcaterra is the best mafia book I've read since THE GODFATHER. I freakin' loved that book. And, I freakin' love this book. It's a bit unbelievable, but hey, it's fun as hell. Come on...don't look at me like that. I know, I know, all the mafia families in the world would never join forces to work as one, especially when they are fighting all the Russian mafia, who happen to be working with all the terrorist organizations of the world. But, hey, here it works. Kind of like a season of 24. THE WOLF is written well, it's exciting, and like I said, fun as hell.

Carcatterra alternates the chapters mainly between the first person perspective of the “good guy” mafia leader (AKA “The Wolf”) and the third person perspective of the Russians. Right out of the gates, you have action. We, as the audience, are treated to a picturesque European vacation spot with lots of tourists and locals, dining and enjoying the weather, and then...BOOM. Next chapter, we get “The Wolf” telling us how he organized all the mafias into one, how he owns all of us from cradle to grave, including the grave and casket itself, and then...SLASH, BOOM, BANG. Almost all of The Wolf’s family is dead. You know what that means.

Seriously, I haven’t been this entertained by a mafia book in a long, long time. And the good news? Carcatterra leaves it open in the epilogue: The Wolf is coming back.

Silver says

I was very intrigued by the concept of Mafia/Organized crime vs. Terrorism. I mean what is not to love there? And I think that Carcatterra was able to bring fresh, new, original ideas to a well worn topic oft written about topic such as the mob. I thought he did a good job of balancing that old world, Romanticized (Mario Puzo styled) Mafia with a more modern mob.

He kept that since of honor, and family, blended with a charismatic leader while still displaying the ways in which the mob would have to evolve and change and adapt to a new world, which involves the use of modern technology, and computer savvy mobsters. I also was intrigued by the idea of a sort of United Nations of Crime in which leaders from crime syndicates all across the globe act almost as CEO business partners with each other.

One of the things I really enjoyed about this book was the use of multiple narrative voice. I liked the way in which the reader is given several different perspectives and is presented with several different view points so you get some insight to each of the different characters involved.

Though one of the biggest downsides this book had was a lack of depth, complexity and character development. The characters did not really show much growth nor do we really see any real depth of emotion within them, but they do all feel a bit flat, and sort of like card-board cut outs. Though this didn't completely spoil the story and I thought it was still entertaining to read and all in all I did enjoy it.

Cheyenne DeBorde says

Okay now, I gotta be honest.

I think this is a book with a couple of very catchy, attractive lines; but overall, I felt the plot to be a little too

forced. It felt like the author was trying to make a deadline and didn't take time to capture the essence of the story. The characters felt like archetypes with a few other traits thrown on from the 'sympathetic' box. I first picked up this book because of the engaging summery, and because the great generosity of another Goodreads member sending me a copy. The summery sounded authoritative and captivating, but I found it lacking as I dove into the book. There were some good portions, where my attention was grabbed -- they were, on average, one paragraph every three pages. I felt like I needed to work at it to really enjoy the book, and that was a let-down.

I also thought the writing style to be a bit short and too choppy, but it worked well for the more high-action scenes.

It would be something fun to read if I didn't have anything else, but definitely not a favorite.

Michael says

The Wolf is a name that Mafia boss Vincent Morelli is known as. He oversees an enormous criminal world.

He's devastated when an attempted hijacking of an airline plane departing from LA ends in a gunfight. There are two air marshals and a bodyguard on the plane. Gunplay erupts and the terrorists are killed, their mission thwarted but there are civilian casualties, among them, Morelli's wife and two young daughters.

He's incensed at the activity of the terrorists and calls a conclave of the most powerful criminal leaders in the world. The International Crime Counsel includes leaders of the Neapolitan crime world, the Camorra Syndicate, the leader of the Japanese crime syndicate and others.

Terrorist activities are costing the Crime world millions of dollars and they declare war on the Russian Mob, the terrorist and the Mexican drug lords who have been working together.

The break neck speed of the action is sure to raise the blood pressure of most readers. Major characters are murdered and we learn that the Russian Mafia is paying a particular terrorist group to create chaos so the Russian Mob can take over most of the world's crime.

Even with the war, Vincent Morellis is easy to sympathise with. He's a loving father who is trying to protect his last living child, his son. He also works with a female leader of the Camorra throne and he and Angela renew a long lasting friendship.

I was thrilled with the excitement generated in this novel and found Vincent Morelli to be believable and likable. I couldn't help but root for his success.

The writing is also poetic "...I would rather people tremble in my presence than feel comfort in it."

There are surprises, traitors and romance with well developed characters. What more could the reader want?

Richard says

7/10

When I saw this novel on NetGalley I jumped at the chance to read it; this guy wrote “Gangster” which is one of my favourite novels & “Sleepers” which was a number one bestseller and mighty fine read too. It also had an interesting, and somewhat unique, plot – organised crime takes a stance against terrorism.

Things start promising with the author’s fast flowing style, bedding in the main characters and showing why “the wolf” wants to take on terrorism after a mishap hits him very close to home. After a while it did become noticeable that the writing style was switching perspectives every other chapter from the first person of “the wolf” to third person of any other character be it terrorist or one of the many other gangsters looking to take on terrorism which jarred and didn’t make things flow as they could.

This leads to another grating point, it felt like Avengers Assemble - but replace superheroes with gangsters and weird evil alien things with terrorists. There were also brief elements of Dan Brown slipping in with a lot of cultural knowledge being shared on historic landmarks to make the reader acknowledge the author had done his homework. This isn’t really necessary in this type of novel but the details were insignificant in total to not make it a big deal.

With that aside I can’t fault this for what it is; a fun easy read in a genre I enjoy. The pacing is good enough to lure you in and keep you reading. The action scenes are enjoyable enough and there are plenty of characters in there to mean the body count is going to be high. The main characters aren’t fleshed out enough for you to really care when certain betrayals are uncovered but there looks like there could be more to come and a potential series in the pipeline.

It’s not Lorenzo at his best which is why it didn’t rate higher for me but it’s good to read more from this author and I will look out for more from him and this series.

I received a free copy for review from Netgalley

If you like this try: “Gangster” by Lorenzo Carcaterra

Tony says

THE WOLF. (2014). Lorenzo Carcaterra. **1/2.

Continuing the great tradition of such epics as “Godzilla vs. King Kong,” we now have the first in a new series of novels by Carcaterra. In this first chapter the adversaries are “Organized Crime” vs. “Terrorists.” What sets the whole thing off is an episode aboard a plane taken over by five terrorists. There are two armed air marshals on board and they make their move. In the ensuing melee, a woman and her two children are killed – along with some other passengers and all the terrorists. The woman is the wife of the head of the largest organized crime organizations in the U.S. He vows revenge. He also sets up a plan to destroy all of the large terror cells while he is at it, and convinces the other major organized crime organizations around the world to become allied with him to carry out his plans. He convinces them that the activities of the terror groups are cutting into crime’s profits in a significant way. This plot premise promises the opportunity for lots of mayhem and a high body count. The author delivers this in a calculated way. If you can handle this plot premise, you will be able to handle the liters of blood and kilograms of gore. Actually, this novel would have been better served as a comic book series. There is no character development, per se, and the story is straight-line violence. We can tell that there will be sequels because things are left hanging in the air, but at least we are forewarned.

Soby says

Yikes. This book should've been sold as fantasy; the plot was so far fetched. I mean, I knew there would be SOME suspension of disbelief considering I'm supposed to believe every mafia-type criminal organization in the world is part of an executive board - "like the United Nations of crime" (to paraphrase something the book actually says) - but I thought there would be a better explanation for this than "we suddenly all decided to start operating like corporations."

Other issues: the "bad guys" are the Russians, the Middle East (as a huge monolith of terrorism), and somehow the Mexicans, which makes it seem like the author just took the Russians, who've been the token bad guys since the Cold War, and teamed them up with enemies du jour for flimsy, never-fully-explained reasons. And we're supposed to be rooting for the freaking mafia, like they're any better than the terrorists! Which brings me to my next point: our "protagonist," "The Wolf," is so poorly written that I can't help but laugh at his characterization. The author wants us to root for him but also wants him to be this ruthless, calculating superman. He's full of contradictions (which, when done well, can lead to realistic and relatable characters; too bad it's not done well here). The Wolf is an isolated, unscrupulous killer but loves his family like crazy and wants them to have a normal life; he's certain of his mission to eliminate terrorism (erm, because of the goodness of his heart? Because they're costing his organization money for, um, reasons?) but doubts if he wants to continue heading up the organization. Just so, **so** absurd.

Carcattera also manages to be so offensive that it's laughable. There are criminal organizations from across the world represented here, so no nationality escapes stereotyping. He almost always refers to both the Chinese and Japanese mafia together - as though, y'know, both groups have the same exact culture and beliefs. The Albanians can't be trusted. An actual line (paraphrased because I can't bear to open the book again): "A gypsy woman can steal your heart, soul, and wallet all in the same day." I could go on, but I won't.

I almost gave this book two stars "for potential" because I didn't finish reading it and didn't want to judge it so horribly without doing so. BUT I ended up skimming through it to the end and just found more of the same terrible plot plus a throw-the-book-against-the-wall ending (view spoiler). And if the plot sounds bad, the writing is worse: uninteresting dialogue, poorly described action, and little-to-no suspense. If you're looking for good suspense/thriller, I recommend Joseph Finder instead.

Carla says

Vincent 'The Wolf' Marelli let his guard down once and had his wife and daughters killed in what was a supposed terrorist attack on a flight, he knew better, he knew they were the target. Vincent oversees a crime empire, working with different crime bosses and making a few enemies that he refuses to, this wasn't just business though - this was personal. He turns to the bosses and asks for help to kill those behind this and stop the terrorist group that seems to be rising, to begin a war. He knows they will help him and knows the traitor will show their true colors sooner or later. Now 'The Wolf' can hunt.

This is a fast paced who done it, race against the clock, revenge type of novel. From the crime syndicates of the Italians to Yakuza to Greek to the battle against the Russian and terrorist organizations - very detailed. The setting mostly in Italy and written as if you were watching from a piazza all the interactions. And the ending has me hoping for another book with The Wolf.

Now I did read an ARC -- there was a bit of disconnect at times, I don't know if this was due to the author's

own personal life and struggle during the writing of this novel or the over editing of it. Some of the interactions were forced, almost unnatural - as were some of the "shoot outs". But this is a good book, worth reading, delving into the world, and especially into the mind of the main character - the ending was great, just proving a point from the beginning. You will enjoy this.

*****This is a First Reads, Thank You Goodreads *****

Patrice Hoffman says

The Wolf is the second novel I've read by Lorenzo Carcaterra. For those unaware of who he is, he wrote *Sleepers*. It was turned into one Blockbuster of a movie starring Brad Pitt, Kevin Bacon, Robert De Niro... and a few others. Suffice it to say, the movie was AWESOME! and so was the book. *The Wolf* doesn't quite compare, but it is still a worthwhile read.

Mob boss Vincent "the Wolf" Marelli is reeling from the loss of his wife and two daughters after a "terrorist" attack leaves them dead. He plans to avenge their deaths by taking out the people responsible. Vincent has a handle on who's calling the shots and declares war on the opposing crime families. With muscle from partners in his criminal enterprise, Vincent begins piecing together who may have put out a hit on his family.

While *The Wolf* moves at lightning speed, there is a constant tension for readers as they zip across the world with Vincent and take note of the dead bodies that pile up. The pace is good and the action is constant. There's no shortage of villains or suspects.

As I got further into the book I started to realize my gripes (which is a good thing... early on gripes lead to DNF's). My biggest gripe was the fact that all the characters seemed one dimensional and caricatures or what a mobster may behave like. Vincent, thankfully, doesn't always fall into this category because he narrates most chapters, but his descriptions of his fellows in crime made me wonder if a new breed of Mobster, Gangster, or Criminal Organization can evolve. Are they all just Joe Pesci ripoffs?

One other minor gripe is that *The Wolf* seemed to focus too much on terrorism. I wanted to know more about the inner-workings of the Marelli crime syndicate. Finding out how they funnel their dirty money into any country's infrastructure is something worth reading about. I wanted more of this instead of a reminder course on the amount of terrorists willing and ready to sacrifice their lives for religion.

Anyway, *The Wolf* is a fast read full of intrigue with a few curveballs thrown in for good measure. There are moments when readers will think they have it all figured out but are nowhere close to the answer. Lorenzo Carcaterra doesn't seem to be done with this anti-hero so I look forward to reading the next Marelli novel. In the mean time, I'll have the DVD of *Sleepers* to keep me entertained.

Copy provided by Random House via Netgalley

Donna Davis says

Carcaterra is not new to the world of fiction. He has a successful career established and at least one New York Times best seller. I had not read him before, and was looking forward to a new-to-me modern mafia tale. Net Galley provided the opportunity free.

I got my wish, stuck in bed with a torn knee and my kindle. I opened it with anticipation, but the magic never happened. The writing style, which I think is supposed to seem coldly sinister, comes across as wooden, for the key protagonist, Vincent Marelli. (The name was a problem for me: kind of a cross between Janet Evanovich's Joe Morelli and the legendary Vincent Minnelli, who fathered Liza Minnelli with Judy Garland.) The Russian, Vladimir, is close to caricatured.

There are other assumptions--that Russia was a capitalist nation in 1980, when really it was still run by Stalinists who skimmed a great deal off the state for themselves; that Russia was a wild card and extremely unpredictable, bent on world domination, when in fact the dream of carrying a workers' revolution around the world died with Lenin, and Stalin made himself a convenient bumper zone in his own sphere after WWII and used it to make Mother Russia more secure, with his successors doing the same for most of the 20th century.

But I could forget all of this if the writer could pull me in and wrap me in story.

The tool of vengeance being sought for the death of loved ones has been used a lot, but in capable hands, it is still a plausible way to hook readers, because most of us have families for whom we would do a great deal. And all of us blame ourselves for things that happen to them and want to protect them.

The first time I felt a really authentic voice break through was, interestingly enough, in the afterword. This explained a great deal. The book was written, he says, during a "difficult and emotional time". Then as one reads on, the pieces fall together. His wife was dying while he wrote this and others had to help him edit and patch.

Why not set the book aside for later? I can imagine. Medical bills; children with needs; probably a deadline. Sometimes when a spouse is mortally ill, they are ill for years and it is hard to know when the final crisis will hit. What a terrible thing.

So I will read something else this man has written, when he was himself. I think this serviceable yet not compelling novel is probably not representative of his best work. I'd like to find that and try it out.

Patty says

The Wolf
By
Lorenzo Carcaterra

My "in a nutshell" summary...

Vincent Marelli...also known as The Wolf...also an organized crime lord...needs to get revenge for the deaths by terrorist of his wife and two daughters.

My thoughts after reading this book...

Oh me oh my...why on earth did I think this was a book about werewolves? Just teasing...this book is not what I thought it was going to be but it was really good and intense...really truly intense. So...Vincent never allows his family to travel alone...and the one time he does...they are killed...he vows to avenge them...and he does...brilliantly...ruthlessly...skillfully. He has a plan and he needs all of the other crime bosses in on it...to

unite and wage war on the terrorists.

What I loved about this book...

Well...even though The Wolf is not a model citizen...I liked him. He loved his family and protected them...until that one time. He is controlled, intelligent and not your ordinary crime lord. I also kind of loved this odd combination of organized crime vs terrorists. There was action in almost every chapter. It's the kind of book that I really don't usually read...but when I do...it's the kind of book that can't be put down...I read it through the entire Eagles game on Sunday without making a move. Plus...the moves that key players...The Wolf and Raza...make in this book are like watching a chess match...where the stakes are life or death.

What I did not love about this book...

Along with action comes lots of terrorists and bombs and lots of deaths...lots and lots of bad guys and bombers...sigh! And Raza...the bombing terrorist...and the Russian Vladimir...the baddest of the bad!

Final thoughts...

There is no way to describe this book without spoiling it. Just know that every page revealed some sort of excitement and adventure. The Wolf is a character to be both feared and admired. He is controlled and totally certain of what he wants to do. Plus...the ending is phenomenal and just might make me sign up for Book 2.

Would this be a good choice for you...potential reader?

Anyone who loves this sort of fast paced adventure...with tons of bad guys...should thoroughly love this book. It's a perfect travel book...start it on the plane and you won't have a bored bone in your body!

Sent from my iPad2 by Patty L. Magyar
