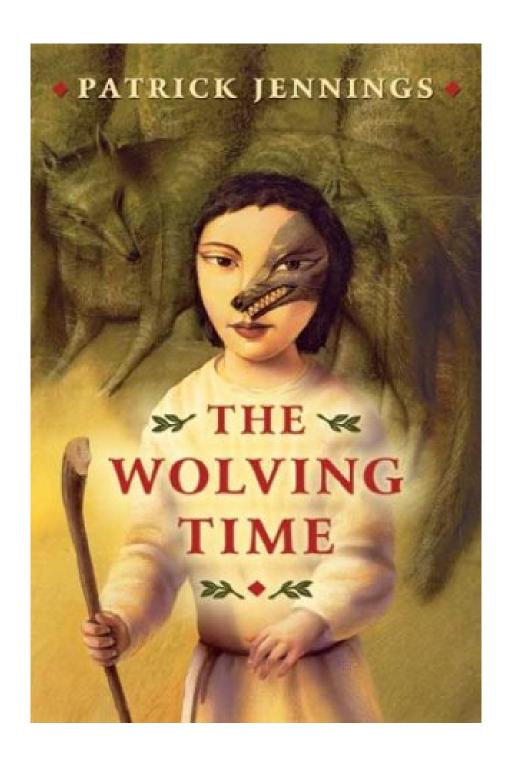


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Laszlo Emberek is caught between two worlds: the bucolic life of a shepherd, tending his family's small flock of sheep with his beloved dog, Gizi, and the secret life of his parents, who can "change" into wolves at will. 13-yr-old Laszlo knows his change will come soon. But when his family's secret is discovered by a village girl -- a ward of the evil and corrupt priest, no less -- Laszlo must decide how he wants to live. Can he trust himself to remain compassionately human as other, wilder instincts overcome him? And are humans truly less dangerous than the wolves they hate with such passion?

Sales Rank: #3985424 in Books
Published on: 2003-10-01
Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: .81" h x 5.78" w x 8.32" l, .85 pounds

• Binding: Hardcover

• 208 pages

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Werewolves Are People, Too

By tvtv3

Laszlo Emberek is the son of a shepherd living in the countryside outside the rural village of Saint-Eustache, France in the late 1500s. Laszlo and his parents are something of outcasts because of their profession. They also have a secret which forces them to live a more secluded life: Lazlo's parents are werewolves and one day, Lazlo himself will be one, too. However, the Embereks aren't the blood-thirsty werewolves of tv an cinema. Instead, they are shapeshifters who are able to change into wolf form at will.

One day Laszlo discovers that a girl from Saint-Eustache has seen his mother change shape. The girl, Muno, stays with the parish priest and Laszlo become fearfully she will expose his family to Pere Raoul. He is able to catch the girl before she runs away and she reveals to him that she is running away. She agrees not to say anything about his family if he promises not to say anything about her running away. Thus, a bond is formed and gradually develops between the two. Yet, this is the Dark Ages and people are being burned and hung for being accused as witches. Pere Raoul doesn't trust the Emberecks and is determined to bring them to justice.

THE WOLVING TIME isn't a great novel. However, it's not terrible, either. The author does a good job of describing things. The characterization of the characters is also well done. I also enjoyed that the werewolves in the story weren't blood-thirsty monsters, but were just people with the ability to change shape. Lastly, the book also does a decent job of keeping the setting and the details of the story realistic; this is a story that has been researched and not just made up.

However, I was disappointed that the villain in the story is a Catholic priest. That is a cliché that is overused far too often. I also felt that the ending of the book was a little rushed. The suspense in the story gradually builds, but when the climax arrives, it fizzles rather than explodes.

Overall, THE WOLVING TIME is a decent story with some extremely well-told details, good characterization, and some interesting historical background. It also offers a twist on the werewolf story that is interesting.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

The Wolving Time

By J. Son

This book is about Laszlo Emberek, a boy who is in two worlds: one in the world as a human, another one is as a wolf; yes, a wolf. His parents, Kalman and Rita, both husband and wife, are already wolves; so far his parents say that he isn't ready to become a wolf yet. Unfortunately, one day a girl named Muno sees his parents change forms while she plans to run away from the priest, Pre Raoul, for she was his servant after he killed her parents and everythings she had. One day she is kept in jail, forced to say that Laszlo were werewolves, thanks to the priest; but luckily she doesn't. However, the priest and the villagers still find them and traps them. As they escape, Kalman and Rita tell him that he is ready - ready to become a wolf. He accepts, and in the end they were able to free Muno and move to a different, friendlier, place.

I liked this book because it was so intense. One minute you are all safe and happy, the next minute you are

under pressure. The author is very descriptive, when he describes Laszlo when he becomes a wolf. As it says it the book, "He ducked his head between his forelegs and saw a furry brisket and silvery hind legs and, swishing back and forth behind them, a bushy tail!" In my opinion, it feels as if you are a wolf yourself, and usually things like that, that you can truly feel, are rare.

The book also talks about some very sad yet wise things. When Muno tells Laszlo that she is kept alive while everyone else she had was dead, it was because the priest knew that he couldn't take anything more from her. The only way was to keep her in torture, but alive. For what she wanted was to escape him, and the priest knew that. It is very descriptive, as I had said before.

Another quote from the book was when the village boys first discovered that he was a werewolf, "His ferocity surprised them - and him - and he worried again that he might change." It shows that he is afraid, which is another why I like this book. Despite all things, even if you became something else or someone else is the fact that you will always have fear follow you. In a way I also disliked the book because the plot was too slow. They didn't tell the part of the boy changing till practically the end of the book. Till then, the person seemed to add things to keep the audience waiting.

My least favorite part of the book was when Muno came to become trapped in the dungeon. It irritates me, not knowing what is going on. All of the excitement seems to be holding in you, yet it won't let go. Plus, the author kept her in the dungeon too long. Till she was freed all they ever talked about was where she was, and suspicious eyes lurking around.

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

I wanted this to be a 5-star book, but ...

By Steven Crane

why is it always the church that puts the "evil" in "medieval"? Why must the villain always be a corrupt priest?

To Mr. Jennings' credit, Laszlo and his parents are nominally Christian, and the next parish over has a sympathetic priest. In general, though, one gets the impression that all would be right in France if only the church and the nobles were out of the way.

They tried that a few centuries after The Wolving Time . It was called the Reign of Terror.

The best parts of this book are the portrayals of Laszlo and his parents Kalman and Rita, as individual characters and as a family. These scenes are filled with love, gentle laughter, and compassion. I only wish Mr. Jennings had made Pere Raoul (the evil priest) as human as the Emberek family. As it is, he is a caricature, easily dismissed as a "them" by enlightened people like us.

"If only it were all so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?" -- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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