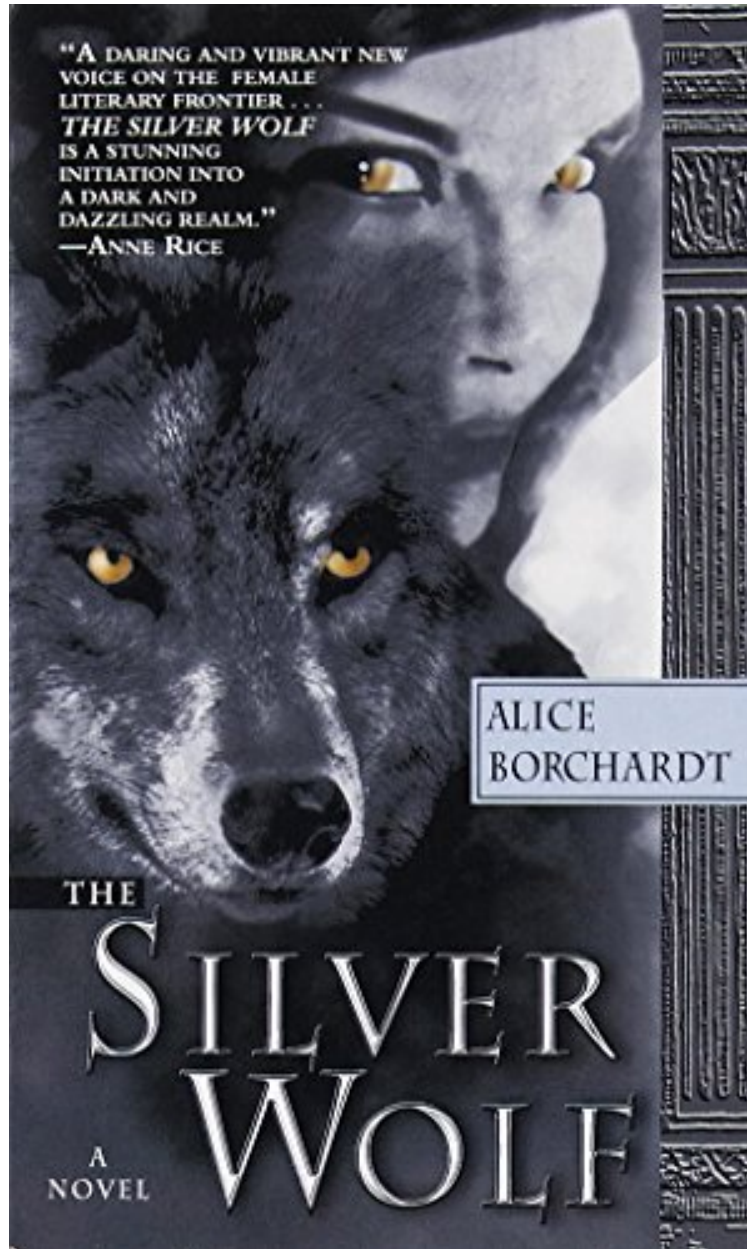


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The Silver Wolf (Legends of the Wolves)

Von Alice Borchardt

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Von Alice Borchardt : The Silver Wolf (Legends of the Wolves) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Silver Wolf (Legends of the Wolves):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Book

To Die For! Von Ein Kunde "The Silver Wolf" is a highly enjoyable novel. It gives us special insight into the Rite of Passage for one young woman. Being a werewolf is no easy thing, especially in an age where anything remotely supernatural or unusual is considered taboo. Imagine trying to control your werewolf self, living with an unloving uncle who beats and starves you while wishing to marry you off to the highest bidder, and imagine being a woman in a time when men held the reins of power. It is a time of war and a time of chaos. And then imagine meeting someone like yourself, a werewolf, a creature of the night. Imagine not being alone anymore. All this and more must a brave soul go through in order to understand who and what she is. Alice Borchardt is a talented writer who pays close attention to detail. She can weave a web as well as any spider, a web of words which take you back in time to the Roman Empire. A time of danger and of secrecy. I recommend this story to history buffs, fantasy freaks, and anyone else who enjoys curling up with a good book and sending yourself to a time of long ago. And just wait for the sequel!

!0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Caged Princess Von Ein Kunde The Silver Wolf tells the story of Regeane, a pale and beautiful woman by day and a delicate silver wolf by night, of her odyssey seeking self-recognition and true love. Regeane's late mother was a distant kin to Charlemagne the Great, by then only one of many feudal lords rising to power, but had unrivaled potential. Her father was another man-wolf, rich and powerful but had fallen prey to humans' evil conspiracy. Her uncle, Gundabald, a wicked and mean scum, had used her mother as a pawn of splendid future, and had killed her father with a crossbow bolt directly through his heart. At the beginning of the story, Gundabald, being Regeane's only relative alive, had arranged a political marriage for her in order to gain court favor, and the bridegroom-to-be was the barbarian lord Maeniel, who had occupied a mountain fortress overlooking the pass of the Alps. Because of Maeniel's future usefulness in conquering Rome, Regeane's marriage had become extremely important for both the Roman pope, Hadrian, who had been suffering from neighboring kingdom of Lombard and had hoped to gain aid from Charlemagne, and herself. Being Anne Rice's elder sister, author Alice Borchardt wrote with poetic delicacy and stunning beauty. The story unfolded with fast pace but lacked in Anne's detailed descriptions at the same time. Some sentences were among the most beautiful I had ever seen. Alice wrote about a water pool in the evening as the reflecting pool was beginning to fill with stars, and rising moonlight as soon, very soon, its journey across the sky would bring it to her window where it would throw a pool of silver light on the floor. Since this was a story both historical and supernatural, there were fantastic elements such as a woman shifting into the shape of a wolf, walking into the land of the dead and meeting the ghost of her lost father, and sharing the Spring of Youth in the garden of eternity with Daedalus, the famous Greek architect, as well as historical events, such as Julius Caesar's life and death, the origin of the Ides of March, and Roman poets' works. Alice mixed fantasy with history in a never-seen-before style, using fantastic aspects to explain historical figures and adding mysterious flavor with bits of ancient mythology. Readers familiar with Western legends and folklore would find delightful surprises, like the Arthurian Romance and Greek mythology, constantly during their process of page-turning. Under the disguise of Dark Ages history and wild imagination, The Silver Wolf was actually a novel of feminism, of feminine self-awareness. Regeane was a typical woman who had lived under men's threats, and to strike a balance between her humanity and the wolf's wild nature, she must struggle for her own freedom and happiness. The author's feminism intention was obvious, since the beginning most characters were female and kind, good in nature, and most male were symbols of violence and lust. Regeane received help from Lucilla, the pope's courtesan and a very powerful woman in Rome, Elfgifa, a Saxon little girl of a brave and intelligent heart, among the others. On the contrary, Gundabald and his son Hugo were bad to the bone, two helpless scums, knowing nothing but sleeping with low-price prostitutes and eating. There were some exceptions, though, Antonius, Lucilla's bastard son, was a benevolent young man stricken by leprosy, though still kept a good heart. Maeniel, the barbarian lord, was actually an immortal wolf-man, and all his followers had the same shapeshifting ability just as Regeane. I had expected Regeane in The Silver Wolf to be independent, brave and graceful, and in the end found her salvation and freedom. And when reading through the story, seeing Alice mocking the traditional value system built by men (I can't think why God created them. I suppose for the same reason he created mosquitos, and fleas. 231), and at the same time praise the female's greatness, (The female is respected. She gives life, she is life. Her body is a temple. 359) I had been glad to find a woman's awakening and independence. But in the end, the story still fell into the typical prince-and-princess-live-happily-ever-after archetype, with Regeane being accused witch, Lucilla being tortured almost to death, and Hadrian and Antonius having no power to save her. The male (Maeniel) still played the role of ultimate hero and savior. He fought as Regeane's champion and defeated the challenger, and together they lived happily ever after. The ending really disappointed me, since I had had enough prince and princess fairy tale, I had wanted some real characters. Regeane was a successfully built character, but the author failed her job in the end. Over all, The Silver Wolf was an easy-to-read, light and interesting book. Alice masterfully mixed historical facts, mythology, fantastic elements and humor, in the end creating a believable and unique story, although we can see images from other famous works, such as Jack London's The Call of the Wild, and traditional supernatural stories like vampire and werewolf. As a popular novel, The Silver Wolf shined with silver glow. But as a true literary work or a feminism story, it had a long way to go.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A beguiling novel to please historical fantasy lovers Von Ein Kunde Majestic Rome is in deep decline by the time Charlemagne rules. Living in the once great Eternal City is Regeane, a woman with royal blood flowing through

her veins. Regeane is a special person because she has also inherited from her deceased sire the ability to physically change her human shape to that of a wolf. In other words, Regeane is a werewolf. Even possessing special powers beyond that of a normal mortal does not stop Regeane from being used by everyone in her circle. Charlemagne plans to have her wed to some barbarian as a political bride. Her uncle and cousin are abusive and blackmail her by threatening to reveal her lycanthropic secret to the Church, who would kill her as witch. Finally, a strange but pleasant scent is activating her sexual needs. With her world crumbling faster than Rome's, it appears that Regeane has an uphill fight just to survive. *THE SILVER WOLF* is one of the all time great werewolf novels. The story line is fast paced and readers need to be prepared to set aside several hours for this one sitting read. The characters are all wonderful as they bring to life ancient Rome on the threshold between antiquity and the modern ages. Blended within all that is a beautifully told romantic fantasy that in of itself makes for a great novel. Alice Borchardt beguiles her devoted audiences with one of the years best fantasy stories. Harriet Klausner

Kurzbeschreibung In this new historical romantic fantasy of stunning originality and scope, Alice Borchardt breathes life into a bygone age, brilliantly recreating a sensuous, violent world--and the men and women whose grand ambitions, betrayals, and passions shape the era in which they live and die. Decadent Rome at the dawn of the Dark Ages is mired in crumbling grandeur. Now, into the Eternal City comes Regeane, a beautiful young woman distantly related, through her dead mother, to Charlemagne. Regeane's regal blood renders her an unwilling pawn in the struggle for political power. But unknown to those plotting against her, the blood she has inherited from her murdered father makes her much more than a child of royalty. Possessed of preternatural agility and strength, primal memories extending back thousands of years, and senses so keen they can pierce the veil of death itself, Regeane is a shapeshifter: woman and wolf, hunter and hunted. Betrothed by Charlemagne's command to a barbarian lord she has never seen, Regeane is surrounded by enemies. The most notorious, her depraved uncle and guardian, will not scruple to betray her to the Church unless she aids him in his sinister schemes. And if the Church discovers her secret, Regeane will burn at the stake. Yet Regeane finds allies as well: Lucilla, rumored to be the private courtesan of Pope Hadrian himself; Antonius, a wise and gentle soul trapped within a body grotesquely disfigured by disease; and the little Saxon girl Elfgifa, brave beyond her years, with a tongue as sharp as a blade. Outside the gates of Rome, baying on the moonlit expanses of the Campagna, there is a mysterious dark wolf whose scent makes the animal in Regeane tremble with desire. Now, as an infamous stranger prepares to claim his bride, deadly plots and counter plots tighten like a noose around her neck, Regeane must fight to live with dignity as the proud creature she is: civilized and savage, woman and wolf, partaking of both yet infinitely more than either. . . . Lyrical, fast-paced, sensual, and rich with historical detail and deep insights into the heart, *The Silver Wolf* catapults Alice Borchardt squarely into the front rank of contemporary women writers. Her intricate plot and hypnotic voice will cast a spell that few will be able to resist. From the Hardcover edition. . . . Regeane is a fatherless royal relation who happens to be a werewolf. Her guardian, Gundabald, and his venal son Hugo plan to recoup their fortunes by marrying Regeane to a wealthy bridegroom, even though she might inadvertently make him into a bedtime snack. Gundabald forces her into apparent compliance by threatening to reveal her secret to the Church, which would burn her at the stake. As the bridegroom, Maeniel, journeys to Rome to claim her, Regeane discovers allies in her quest to defeat Gundabald's machinations, including some very strong, funny, and levelheaded women. Unfortunately for Regeane, she also has more powerful enemies than Gundabald. Alice Borchardt brings 8th-century Rome vividly to life. Her language is earthy and sensuously descriptive: "The wolf visited Regeane's eyes and ears. The girl staggered slightly with the shock. The light in the square became intense. Smells an overwhelming experience: wet stone, damp air, musty clothing, perspirations shading from ancient sticky filth to fresh acrid adrenal alarm." Borchardt is Anne Rice's sister, but she writes a very different sort of tale. Ghosts, the dead, and supernatural forces are here, but so is laugh-out-loud humor and a happy ending. --Nona Vero.co.uk Eighth-century Rome is a shell of its Imperial past, pullulating with whores, pickpockets and mercenaries, and yet strategically the Pope and his cardinals are key players in the game of thrones that is taking place beyond the Alps. Regeane, a distant kinswoman of Charles, the King of the Franks whom men are already starting to call the Great, is sent to Rome as bride, and bribe, to Maeniel, whose Alpine fortress commands a crucial pass. Endlessly brutalised by the corrupt uncle who murdered her father, Regeane is at once pinioned and freed by her secret--she regularly turns into a great killing wolf. Once in Rome, she finds herself new friends--the courtesan Lucilla, her leper son Antonius and the pope himself--and starts to realise that her future does not have to be one of betrayal and nightmare. And Maeniel has secrets of his own, and is not at all the uncouth thug Regeane and the Romans expect. This is a powerful and sexy historical fantasy with intelligent surprises in its plotting and some attractively spooky magic; Regeane is always more than the victim she thinks herself and finds resources of toughness which make her a memorable character. --Roz Kaveney