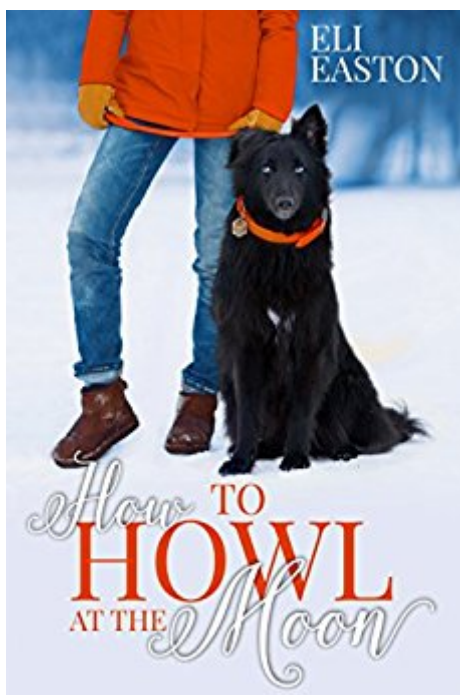


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How To Howl At The Moon



Synopsis

Sheriff Lance Beaufort is not going to let trouble into his town, no sir. Tucked away in the California mountains, Mad Creek has secrets to keep, like the fact that half the town consists of "quickeneds" dogs who have gained the ability to become human. Descended on both sides from Border Collies, Lance is as alert a guardian as they come. Tim Weston is looking for a safe haven. After learning that his boss patented all of Tim's work on vegetable hybrids in his own name, Tim quit his old job. A client offers him use of her cabin in Mad Creek, and Tim sees a chance for a new start. But the shy gardener has a way of fumbling and sounding like a liar around strangers, particularly gorgeous alpha men like Sheriff Beaufort. Lance's hackles are definitely raised by the lanky young stranger. He's concerned about marijuana growers moving into Mad Creek, and he's not satisfied with the boy's story. Lance decides a bit of undercover work is called for. When Tim hits a beautiful black collie with his car and adopts the dog, it's love at first sight for both Tim and Lance's inner dog. Pretending to be a pet is about to get Sheriff Beaufort in very hot water.

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Customer Reviews

Other reviewers will go into detail, have gone into detail on what this story is about so I'll just jot down some thoughts and what I loved. The beginning is a bit choppy. I had to go back and read the book blurb to understand what's going on. With that said this was a well written silly but fun story about a man's best friend. . . . And I say that tongue in cheek. *wink* There were a lot of ups and down between Lance and Tim but once trust was established, everything fell in place. I don't think I've ever read smex scenes so funny. Tim's thought process was something else. And frankly, I usually skip over those because after reading so many books there's only so many ways to make smex scenes creative. Well, believable and creative. But Eli Easton was brilliant. SPOILERS: This book needs a follow up. Why? 1. Tim is renting. He is putting a lot of work into that garden and the property isn't his. 2. The rose. This is the reason behind Tim's relocating and ability to prove himself. 3. The drug criminals -- I was expecting at least one of them to stumble across their midnight howl. But no, they aren't caught. 4. Roman needs a human. I saw him hooking up with the guy he saved. 5. Resolve with Marshall. That part was getting interesting. 6. Oh yes and Lily. She needs More purpose in life than her kids. So. . . A follow up story? Yes? Please? !! - Dan's Wife

I've enjoyed several books by this author but this is by far my favorite. When I pre-ordered this book I had no idea it would be so good. I didn't remember the premise so this was a wonderful blind read full of great surprises. I love Eli Easton's use of humor in her stories. It was a perfect balance to all the other very serious issues she blended into this lengthy and thoroughly enjoyed story. Theft, fear of homelessness, drug cartels, going without because of little or no money, child abuse, feeling lost, being all alone, feeling inadequate, dog and human bond, importance of family/pack, fear of exposure were among the many topics the author touched on. Ms Easton then went on to do some amazing world building with her new concept of Quickened canine shifters. Few authors have written about dog shifters so this was a great change of pace. All work and no play had made Lance very intense, socially inept, and not much fun to be around. He took his job as Sheriff and pack leader of the "Quickened" and their families as a solemn vow. Putting it first and foremost. He had no time for fun and frivolity. Not even the monthly pack's Howl at the Moon full moon get togethers. Nothing and no one deterred him from his job. His focus and intensity were hallmarks of his Border Collie inheritance. Yet his other family members managed private lives. Just not him. He had a pack

and town to protect. Besides how could he trust anyone enough to let his guard down especially someone who wasn't pack. Tim sought out the quiet, remote cabin with its neglected lands and greenhouse as a last chance locale. A place to hide, lick his wounds, and prove he was none of the terrible things both his abusive father and former crooked boss sprouted off towards him. He needed the peace and quiet to calm his frazzled nerves. But instead he found himself almost immediately on the radar of the super persistent sheriff. A man who seemed to look deeply into Tim and find him lacking and suspicious. With a deadline looming to recreate his green thumb magic, Tim is determined not to let a little hunger, lack of sufficient funds, the proper tools, or nosy town residents keep him from achieving his goals. What he didn't count on was a new canine friend, missing plants, or the tenacity of the sheriff and definitely not his mom. I was very excited to see after the end of this book the notice that there was going to be a sequel coming out in November 2015, about Roman. Hip hip hooray!!

I'm perfectly prepared to suspend disbelief when I read about shifters - of course you have to be. But the basic premise here was too silly for me to take seriously. There are some dogs who are so loving and perfectly suited to their owners that they magically transform into humans. Really? That's how you explain shifters? Dogs who love too much? Better to have no explanation and just have them as a given than that! The romance wasn't bad, I didn't mind the sheriff or the gardener but the world building killed it for me.

The premise "How to Howl.." was better than the execution. At times cutesy, whimsical, and silly the main characters did not ring true. The idea that dogs eventually bond to humans and can transform as humans is interesting, but something was off the mark. Not to mention, the story went from cutesy then segued into graphic m/m sex scenes which seemed out of place. I'll give the next one a try as the premise is pretty good. My favorite character in this one was Roman. He's actually a German Shepherd that lost his military owner/bond at war and is at a loss. His sorrow and loss at how to cope without his bond was pretty poignant. He's featured in "How to Walk Like a Man".

Which really unusual for me. I've loved all of Eli's other books and I didn't hate this book or anything... But I just couldn't get past the whole dog shifter idea. I just looked at our border collie and thought, 'She's really the smartest dog we've ever had, but... No, not happening.' The characters were great. Lily was my favorite. Such a spaz. Tim was a sweetheart who came into his own. And Lance finally found someone he couldn't tell his heart 'No' to.

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