



The Hunger of the Wolf

Stephen Marche

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A breakout book from Stephen Marche, *The Hunger of the Wolf* is a novel about the way we live now: a sweeping, genre-busting tale of money, morality, and the American Dream and the men and monsters who profit in its pursuit set in New York, London, and the Canadian wilderness.

Hunters found his body naked in the snow. So begins this breakout book from Stephen Marche, the provocative *Esquire* columnist and regular contributor to *The Atlantic*, whose last work of fiction was described by the *New York Times Book Review* as “maybe the most exciting mash-up of literary genres since David Mitchell’s *Cloud Atlas*. The body in the snow is that of Ben Wylie, the heir to America’s second-wealthiest business dynasty, and it is found in a remote patch of northern Canada. Far away, in post-crash New York, Jamie Cabot, the son of the Wylie family’s housekeepers, must figure out how and why Ben died. He knows the answer lies in the tortured history of the Wylie family, who over three generations built up their massive holdings into several billion dollars worth of real estate, oil, and information systems despite a terrible family secret they must keep from the world. The threads of the Wylie men’s destinies, both financial and supernatural, lead twistingly but inevitably to the naked body in the snow and a final, chilling revelation.

The Hunger of the Wolf is a novel about what it means to be a man in the world of money. It is a story of fathers and sons, about secrets that are kept within families, and about the cost of the tension between the public face and the private soul. Spanning from the mills of Depression-era Pittsburgh to the Swinging London of the 1960s, from desolate Alberta to the factories of present-day China, it is a bold and breathtakingly ambitious work of fiction that uses the story of a single family to capture the way we live now.

The Hunger of the Wolf Details

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Author : Stephen Marche

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From Reader Review The Hunger of the Wolf for online ebook

DT says

I wonder sometimes about the ranking system on this site, and whether my rankings are "fair," whatever that means. This was an incredible book, but I read it right on the heels of one of the best books I've read all year. If I'd just spent a week locked in a room with romance novels, this is five stars, easy. But for the sake of argument - almost exclusively with myself, I suppose - let's call this 4.75 stars.

It's a story about wealth. One of the blurbs described it as a modern Great Gatsby, and I don't think it's unfair. The book tracks three generations of the Wylie family, but it really explores the psychology of rich people. There's the wanting to be rich, the newly successful, the newly rich, the partners of the newly rich, the newly filthy rich, the children of the filthy rich who want to please the filthy rich, the people who want to marry the children of the filthy rich, the grandchildren of the filthy rich who spend money to fill the gaping holes in their life, etc.

But I'm doing the plot a tremendous disservice by reducing it to a few sentences. It's brilliant, and there's such efficiency in the author's writing that I'm forced to conclude he's a prodigy, spent a billion hours on editing, or both. There's also an excellent family secret. I read this in a day, and I thought about it for a lot longer than that.

Chantal says

This is a DNF for me. Too many books, too little time, and I lost interest dramatically by page 40. I usually don't continue past page 25 if the book doesn't speak to me. This one made it a bit further, but I couldn't justify spending any more time plugging along. It's not a bad book - it just isn't my taste and the convoluted writing style just wore me down. It's not that it was serpentine, per se, but it was forcibly folded in an intricate and forced manner. See what I mean? That kind of WTF sentence after a while just wears you down.

Patty says

The Hunger Of The Wolf
By
Stephen Marche

Key characters...and what is going down with them...

The most amazing and fascinating characters in this book are the Wylie men...all of them. At first I thought that they were just amazing business men who overcame a struggling life to become billionaires...but then...something totally weird and unexpected happened to them...during certain nights and I started to disbelieve this book and I actually started to dislike this book...for a while. But then I came around to a pensive enjoyment of this really unusual story. The story is told by Jamie Cabot...the son of the caretakers of

one of the Wylie's homes...a remote home in Canada. It is the story of the Wylie family and all of their natural and rather unnatural lives.

What I thought about this book...

I am not sure what I think about this book. The writer writes in a fast assured manner as he tells this strange story. His words sped along and I never wanted to stop reading but often I didn't like what I read...but that did not make me unhappy with this book at all. It was different...it had an incredibly fast pace...the words just flew by...and it had unbelievable situations. So unbelievable that I feel as though I must skirt around them in order not to reveal the essential elements...both the believable and unbelievable elements of this book! Can you tell that this book is very different? I mean...this family is bizarre...obsessed with making money...obsessed with their basement secret...and finally Jamie...trying to write about their history...and honestly...Jamie is weird, too.

Why you might want to read it, too...

Readers who love a fast paced unique story...that is very different...should enjoy this book. I simply did not love it.

Marilyn Boyle-Taylor says

I liked the very beginning and thought it would be an interesting read, but I found much that was distasteful. Granted the characters were the ones making racist and misogynistic remarks at times, but there was no context that needed it, so the error was on the part of the author. There was also too much repetition and confusion between the characters. They were drawn individually enough, but it was often unclear why we were jumping from one to another at the specific time, and TMI about all of them. It didn't work as a fairy tale for me, either.

Gabrielle Mathieu says

I started off really liking this book. With his eye for detail and keen nose for social mores, Marché reminds me of Thomas Wolfe, and the theme of impressive riches does resonate with *The Great Gatsby*. My enthusiasm dwindled as I read on. Stephen Marché is a good writer, but the problem is, he won't let you forget it. His paragraphs begin with keen, nuanced observations, and then spiral out into apparently profound statements that don't hold up. For instance, the summary at the end of a paragraph, "There's too much oblivion in the world to keep track of it all," was funny and unexpected. However, the statement "he was living the nightmare at the end of envy: What if money meant nothing?" perhaps sounds more profound than it is. The family came from very poor roots, and had to fight to get enough money to keep food on the table. After a while, those sweeping statements seem forced.

And what's with the werewolves? I'm all for genre-blending, but they add nothing to the story. Perhaps the wolf is meant to be a metaphor for the Wylies, the wealthy family plagued by lycanthropy, but Marché's account of the family does not convince. As far as I can tell, they're drab, penny-pinching misers, not creatures of appetites.

Ryan says

This book claimed to be everything and more, but I find it to be slow and disjointed and lacked storylines.

Dawn says

I received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads

I enjoyed this book, it was well written and easy to get into. I like the past and present transition of the Wylie family history to Jamie's current desire to stay in New York. There is a strong theme when it comes to money throughout this book, the need to have more and when is more enough. Is the accumulation of it out of a desire to become respectable (Wylie) or is it more a status symbol.

I was expecting more of a crime thriller rather than a "supernatural" one. The relationships between mothers-fathers-sons, husbands-wives, money-business, and the secret they kept was interesting. I would have liked to have known more about them. Specifically, how Ben ended up where he was found (more than the brief mention by Poppy) and why the women were so understanding of the family secret.

Ben says

I just finished an advance copy of this book and am still digesting it but can say that I thoroughly enjoyed it. It follows three generations of the Wylie family as they rise to prominence as wealthy capitalists in the United States. As each generation becomes wealthier, something vital seems to be leeched out of their character. Their increasing wealth leaves them without anything to want or strive for and they seem to lose a vital part of their humanity. Don't be fooled into thinking that this is a book about the supernatural or werewolves. Those elements are very real in the context of the book but are not the main thrust

Missy Byer says

To the person that wrote this book is the next best thing since Cloud Atlas, f*ck you for tainting the name of David Mitchell with an association to such mediocrity.

Sarah says

Reading this was...an experience. It was compared to The Great Gatsby by some reviewers, and I can see why; its writing style and subject matter was pretty similar. However, it wasn't as good as Gatsby. Of course. This was a whole lot of rich white people problems, meets mystery, meets an unexpected supernatural element that just didn't work for me. The writing style was really its only saving grace. I didn't hate it, but I definitely didn't love it.

Lisa Trefonis says

"In the 1920's, MacMcormack & sons, expanding beyond Pennsylvania, promoted Dale to 'director of the sales force', a grand title for a hard-ship post in the timber & mining counties selling axe heads & rope, engine seeds & bulk seeds, biscuits & blue jeans, selling whatever he could figure people wanted to buy'."

Virginia Campbell says

Morphing between the metaphorical and metaphysical, and back again, "The Hunger of the Wolf" may give you food for thought--or make you feel as though you have bitten off more than you can chew. Either way, author Stephen Marche confidently moves readers out of their comfort zone with an encompassing tale of unimaginable wealth that comes with an unusual and unsettling aspect of inheritance. The opening paragraph is indeed compelling, advising readers that the naked dead man found in a remote area of the frozen Canadian woods was actually the eighth-richest person in the world, billionaire Ben Wylie. A son of the Wylie's housekeepers, Jamie Cabot, a journalist, determines to find the truth surrounding Ben's ignominious demise. Three generations of Wylies have carved out an empire of capitalism entwined with a lupine legacy. Who's to bless, and who's to blame? As always, I enjoy reading outside my fiction box, and I am sure no two readers will come away with the exact same take on this unique tale from author Stephen Marche.

[Review Copy Gratis Amazon Vine](#)

Brett says

Stephen Marche is a brilliant writer and I expect he has it within him to become one of Canada's greatest writers. However, in many ways his newest novel struck me as a lazy effort on his part.

Marche has the ability of holding a reader's interest even when writing about the mundane; he is never boring. And because of this, I felt the novel could have easily been twice as long - in fact, SHOULD have been. The backbone of a great epic lies within this brief sketch.

Marche begins with an intriguing premise - the world's 8th richest man lies dead in the snow - but never really comes through with the goods in the end. Yes, we get a wonderful look at the cult of money throughout the 20th century (the book has been favourably compared to "The Great Gatsby" for obvious reasons) and what makes a man, but I had the impression that Marche got bored in writing this and decided simply to wrap things up.

I rarely say this about books nowadays, but I thought this book should have been longer to allow Marche to get to the meat of his subject.

Karen says

Pretty good. Interesting characters. I felt like the end was supposed to be some big revelation but the part where something was actually revealed was missing.

TinaA says

Weird story but great writing.
