



I Was a Teenage Weredeer

C.T. Phipps , Michael Suttikus

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FROM THE BEST SELLING AUTHOR OF THE SUPERVILLAINY SAGA

Jane Doe is a weredeer, the least-threatening shapechanger species in the world. Blessed with the ability to turn furry at will and psychically read objects, Jane has done her best to live a normal life working as a waitress at the Deerlightful Diner. She has big dreams of escaping life in the supernatural-filled town of Bright Falls, Michigan, and her eighteenth birthday promises the beginning of her teenage dreams coming true.

Unfortunately, her birthday is ruined by the sudden murder of her best friend's sister in an apparent occult killing. Oh, and her brother is the primary suspect. Allying with an eccentric FBI agent, the local crime lord, and a snarky werewolf, Jane has her work cut out for her in turning her big day around.

Thankfully, she's game.

Set in the same world as Straight Outta Fangton.

I Was a Teenage Weredeer Details

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From Reader Review I Was a Teenage Weredeer for online ebook

M.L. Spencer says

I Was a Teenage Weredeer is a fantastic first installment of The Bright Falls Mysteries Series that I found positively deerlightful! I'm not usually a fan of Young Adult or Urban Fantasy, but this novel is truly a departure from the norm.

This is a story that transcends genre and plays on tropes, offering a rather cynical side of YA that I found to be refreshing.

Written in the same world as Phipps' Straight Outta Fangton, Weredeer introduces a new protagonist in the form of Jane Doe (yes, you read that correctly). Jane seemed to me a lot like Bella from Twilight, only capable and likeable. She finds herself wrapped up in a murder mystery after her brother becomes a suspect, and finds herself teamed up with a mysterious FBI agent. Pop culture references fly like fouls at a AA ballgame.

I found Jane very easy to identify with due to her vast capacity for cynicism, sarcasm, and a never-ending supply of teenage angst. The plot moves forward at a steady pace, keeping the pages turning.

And not only is the story very well-told, a variety of societal issues are addressed, making this a weightier read than your average YA novel. There is something for everyone between these pages.

In conclusion, I heartily recommend I Was a Teenage Weredeer to a Young Adult-Adult readership. My only suggestion is to make sure you block out a good amount of time for yourself before you begin this read, as you probably won't be going anywhere until the last page is turned.

Emma says

3.5 stars

Jane Doe feels trapped. She's a weredeer, in a family of weredeer, all residents of Bright Falls, Michigan, a town full of shifters. In this world, supernaturals have been outed, at least in part, since the vampires' decision to reveal themselves. But that hasn't led to peace and happiness for all, instead shifters have dangerous lives outside specific safe havens, with the possibility of being shot just for who they are. She wants more, but she's stuck. Thankfully, on her birthday, the town mean girl turns up dead. What a present. Except the police think her brother may be the killer. Not so good. So now she has to prove he didn't do it and find the real culprit, but at least she's no longer bored...

I had two conflicting responses to the book's concept. The immediate seller was the puntastic name of both the character and the family eatery she works in, the Deerlightful Diner. Little did I know that these were the tip of the iceberg, the book is worth reading for the deer puns alone. The fact that the author makes punning a thing weredeer and shifters in general are fascinated by, and which they literally can't avoid doing whether they realise it or not, was absolutely perfect. Jane, herself, is in denial- one conversation in which her accidental puns are exposed made me genuinely laugh aloud. I hadn't noticed them either. On the other hand, the rather more negative reaction was to the main character being a weredeer. A deer. Seriously? If you filled

in one of those internet quizzes: 'What Kind of WERE are YOU??? Click to find out NOW' and you got a deer, you'd be disappointed. If i'm not some kind of big cat, i'm not playing. Nobody wants to be prey. The whole point of being a were-anything is that you change from normal to special, deadly and sexy-dangerous, or what's the point? So that was the downer. I wasn't sure how the author was going to pull this off- how interesting can a deer be after all? The honest answer is more than you'd think. Her deer form is pretty strong and she can also psychically read objects. Not just in a this-knife-was-used-in-a-crime kind of way, but a full see-the-whole-event-in-stereo kind of way. On top of that, she's intelligent, ballsy, and a wonderfully funny narrator.

For the most part, the chatty, teen drama tone of the book worked well, even if the attitude and emotional ages seemed more like 16ish at the most rather than the 18 plus they actually were. There were some moments, especially in the rapid conversation between the younger characters, that made the book feel too YA for me. It was a bit Dawson's Creek (showing my age). And that's another problem, the references, though usually funny, weren't always right for the character. Maybe for the reader, if they're as old as I am (not telling), but there are parts YA readers are going to miss. That's not to say I didn't enjoy the hell out of them- serious love for the in jokes about vampire and shifter literature as well as the character awareness of the rules of horror. There was a clear aim to subvert tropes and to offer a darker alternative to each item on the typical YA tick list. It made for a curious mix of just right and too young that meant it didn't work as well for me as urban fantasy with adult characters.

Nevertheless, there was more depth to the story than expected, deftly hidden beneath the humour. In this, it very much channelled the show the author says inspired the book, Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Themes of racism and persecution, what it's like to be or feel different, social and familial pressure, sexuality - all raised naturally and with real sentiment within the framework of the plot and character relationships in the book. Here though, I could have done without Jane kinda jokingly calling herself racist every 5 minutes, it undermined how well the issue was dealt with in other parts of the book and emphasised the times when the author was trying too hard to be funny or edgy. Overall, Jane has a lot in common with the Slayer: she uses the tools she has to get shit done, she protects her friends and family, and sometimes has bad thoughts about even badder men. There's a lot of potential here for the future. The lasting impression is of a good time had by all, and I wouldn't hesitate to read whatever comes next.

ARC via author

Lukasz says

Actual rating: 3.75/5

I love Urban Fantasy. Here and now spiced with magical and supernatural elements appeals to me in a way only few setting do. Despite being reasonably well versed in the genre, weredeers are something new to me. And they're only one of shapeshifters species living in Bright Falls.

Jane Doe is a teenage weredeer who wants to go to college and escape Bright Falls. Unfortunately, the chances of her escaping her small Michigan hometown are pretty slim - in some states, it's legal to shoot shapeshifters. For instance, she's working as a waitress at the Deelightful Diner and tries to lead a normal life. Things change when her best friend's sister is murdered in an apparent occult killing. Jane's brother is the primary suspect. With the help of local drug dealer (sexy bad boy), FBI agent (sexy good guy) and other colorful characters, she'll have to solve the mystery and fight for the safety of her family.

I'll start with the characters. They're fun. Given that Jane is a teenager, the tone of the book is sarcastic, hormone-driven, but also entertaining. The characters have distinct voices and imagining them is easy. Their dialogues are often cheesy and contain a ton of pop-culture references (Twilight, Star Trek, Twin Peaks and many more). It's not a bad thing, as it's done well and I couldn't help but laugh out loud on more than one occasion. Also, deer puns were hilarious. To be fair, though, at times the story felt oversaturated with puns and funny moments. Too much of a good thing isn't always a good thing.

Underneath funny moments and banter, there's a darker side to the story. I can safely say that some of YA / UF tropes were subverted in an entertaining and clever way that doesn't shy away from social commentary. It touches racial and family issues, as well as power dynamics. Good stuff. The plot is easy to follow but it still delivers some nice twists that push up the tempo.

I enjoyed writing - it's not the best prose on the market but it's the kind of light writing that makes you turn the pages and enjoy the story. It feels natural and is easy to follow. It also makes me believe the authors had as much fun writing it, as I had reading it.

In the end, I enjoyed the novel **deerly**, and I'll **hunt** for the sequel. Despite all those terrible deer puns ;)

Bookwraiths says

Originally reviewed at Bookwraiths.

Urban fantasy isn't one of my usual reading genres. Young adult isn't either. Neither is humorous stories. Be that as it may, I decided to cast caution to the wind and give *I Was A Teenage Weredeer* a go, certain that these authors could wow me as much with this creation as they did their space opera *Lucifer's Star*.

Set in the same world as Phipps' *Straight Outta Fangton*, *Weredeer* takes place in the small town of Bright Falls, Michigan: the home of the shifter clan. Our protagonist is a smart, snarky, and geeky girl by the name of Jane Doe, who just happens to be a weredeer. It isn't a big issue for her though because everyone around here has a special gift and paranormal activity is a part of life.

What is a big deal is that Jane's brother is a suspect in the murder of her friend's sister. Jane quickly winding up in the middle of said murder investigation. The mystery which thereafter evolves is full of family and town secrets; secrets which will certainly change Jane's life forever.

There are more than a few things to really like about *Weredeer*, but one of its chief strengths is the authors' clever subversion of the standard tropes of both urban fantasy and young adult. Even though the usual teen angst of YA and fantastical elements of urban fantasy are ever present here, the authors offer a rather darker side to many things, using societal issues and diverse characters in a refreshing way to add depth to what would otherwise be a fairly generic plot line.

If you had to point to one thing and say that is what *I Was A Teenage Weredeer* is all about though, then it would have to be the humor. First, everyone in this story is obsessed with puns. Good puns. Bad puns. Puns that are cheesy. Some that are damn clever. More than a few about deer and our protagonist Jane DOE. Second, pop culture references are everywhere, turning many scenes into funny discussions about how this

film or this character would handle the current situation. The puns and references making sure the fun never stops.

The only complaint I have with *Weredeer* is the pacing. To be fair, this was most notably a problem in the middle sections of the book, slowly fading as the authors accelerated to a very exciting conclusion; however, during the times it was an issue, the narrative did drag quite a bit, weighed down by descriptive passages and too much humor. I know all the puns and pop culture references were there to lighten the mood up, add some fun to things, but when it seemed ever single character was getting into the pun making, it became a case of a little too much of a good thing, causing my desire for more puns to peaked and quickly decline.

To sum up, *I Was A Teenage Weredeer* was a nice, easy read with a few surprises, some good paranormal **MUR-DEER** action, and loads and loads of puns. I could definitely see fans **HUNTING** for something like Buffy the Vampire Slayer or a similar tv series/films enjoying this novel **DEERLY**. (Yeah, I had to put in, at least, a couple of deer pun.) Seriously, though, anyone who finds YA urban fantasy with a dark side to their liking would probably really enjoy this novel.

I received this book from the authors in exchange for a fair and honest review. I'd like to thank them for allowing me to receive this review copy and inform everyone that the review you have read is my opinion alone.

[Name Redacted] says

I think the best case I can make for this book is that, after simply describing it to my friends, ALL of them now desperately want to read it. Twice in the last week, people have yelled at me for not having a copy on hand to loan them!

I won't lie: I had a lot of quibbles (eg: the song was simply "Lucretia, My Reflection" and the band was **The Sisters of Mercy**), the editors definitely need to be fired (eg: at one point the book randomly switched from 1st person to 3rd person for a single sentence), the pacing felt a little off in the final half, and the puns (SO MANY PUNS) nearly broke me... But overall, this was a legitimately fun read!

Jane Doe (*twitch*) is a likable protagonist, the characters are interesting and distinct (this may be the first series where I haven't confused characters for one another), and the world is replete with references to the classic World of Darkness games (Alex is veering towards being a Marauder, trust me) and parodies of True Blood/the works of Charlaine Harris. A solid entry in the urban-fantasy/paranormal mystery genre, and I'm looking forward to reading the next volume!

[UPDATE: I feel I should note that my copy was granted me by the author in exchange for an honest review, and I have been notified that my copy was an older one -- newer printings have been successfully edited!]

Kirsty 📚📖♥? says

Well I've never seen Veronica Mars but I hae seen Buffy so when I saw that all the reviews liken this to those programmes I have half an idea what they meant. This was fun and packed with some cool magic.

There were shape-shifters, spirits, and so much more. The story had plenty of humor and a bit of action and mystery.

There's so much originality in this book complete with an ancient legend and spells. So many twists and turns. Really enjoyed it.

Thank you to CT Phipps for the ARC

Scott says

There is something inherently likable about this novel that is raising it from the fetid mire of one-star status, but that something is ineffable, indefinable, and might just have to do with the fact that I'm a dork.

Because this is a super dorky novel.

It's a light urban fantasy that gleefully pulls from various magical and supernatural mythologies and folk traditions, all recontextualized in the modern world with a plucky young female heroine. Think *True Blood*, but then think *Charmed* instead. I generally love this type of shit.

But this novel tries WAY too hard to inject the story with sass and humor, and none of it plays. It's just... lame and cringey. Like this girl I used to know in high school who would knit during class and talk about nothing but *Sailor Moon*. I actually quite liked her, but she was devoted to that same type of humor, and I'd constantly roll my eyes. It's the type of humor that mistakes cultural references for wit (there is a labored call to *Star Wars*, *Game of Thrones*, *Twin Peaks*, *Doctor Who*, etc. on nearly every page) and otherwise uses cliché and outdated catchphrases to fill in the gaps. There were two moments I did find amusing, but they were cribbed directly from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (not just referenced, I'm talking stolen).

A book doesn't have to be funny to be good. So let me tell you why this was such a problem for me:

So the protagonist is a self-defined geek, and apparently a love of puns is something endemic to being a weredeer. Fine. One character reveling in the muck of dorky humor sounds fun. Who doesn't love that? (Ask me to tell you my joke about the fish one day.)

But none of the puns or references are especially clever, and they all feel shoehorned in. And it turns out this isn't a quirk of just the main character. Every character's dialogue is suffused with this stuff, and in consequence, they are all indistinguishable. And not only that, but every moment where there should be a bit of dramatic tension, there's a cringey line. Every time a character needs to deal with an emotion, there's a *Star Wars* reference. So while I can forgive something for not being funny (we all laugh at different things, right?), this novel's untempered use of this nonsense spoils nearly every scene.

So no, this one did not do it for me and has far from improved my faith in the self-published Kindle oeuvre that I like to poke my nose in a little every year. But again, there was something I still clung to in this novel. Though I didn't always know what was happening in the plot (some scenes were a bit muddled), the arc was well-crafted. And points for cobbling together a supernatural universe that was simultaneously cohesive yet drawn from a bevy of sources. But don't steal lines from *Buffy*. Even on accident.

Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says

This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life in Books.

This was entertaining. I am not going to lie - the thing that really caught my attention about this book was the title. Weredeer? Have I ever read a book about a weredeer? Of course not so you know I had to give this book a try just to find out more about this weredeer. It ended up being a really clever story with some great world-building. I am glad that I took a chance on this fun little story.

Jane Doe is a weredeer. I should probably mention that there are little bits of humor sprinkled all over this story as you may have guessed as soon as you saw Jane's name. Anyway, Jane's family owns a local diner where Jane works as a waitress alongside other members of her family. Since Michigan is one of only two states that are safe for shifters, the town of Bright Falls has a rather large shifter population. Jane's best friend is a werewolf and there are all kinds of colorful characters around town.

Jane learns that her best friend's sister has been killed and that her brother has been accused of the murder and decides to investigate. Weredeers often have special abilities and Jane is able to gather a lot of knowledge just by touching objects. Jane and her best friend hope that her special abilities will make finding out what really happened a simple task. Of course, things quickly get complicated and they find themselves uncovering a mystery that goes back quite a few years.

I liked Jane. I thought she was pretty brave to get involved with everything and she was never afraid of asking the hard questions. It was fun to watch her try to figure everything out. There were a lot of other characters in the book and I liked most of them. I did find it a bit difficult to keep everyone straight at times since there were so many characters that had a role. I did think it was odd that Jane's parents were almost always referred to as Judy and John instead of Mom and Dad.

I thought that Arielle DeLisle did a great job with this story. This was the first time that I have had the chance to listen to this narrator and I was impressed by her delivery. I thought that she was able to bring Jane to life and added a lot of emotion and excitement to the story. I wouldn't hesitate to listen to her work again in the future.

I would recommend this book to others. I had a lot of fun with it and found myself chuckling from time to time. There were a lot of pop culture references and puns worked into the story that kept everything rather light. I felt that the ending of this book was pretty satisfying but I may decide to pick up the second book at some point in the future.

I received a review copy of this audiobook from the author via Audiobook Boom.

Initial Thoughts

I found the book to be quite clever and enjoyed learning about the world that it was set in. I have to admit that the idea of a weredeer is what really made me want to pick up this book and Jane was even more interesting that I could have expected her to be. There were some parts of the book that had me chuckling and I thought the narrator did a fantastic job with the story so it was a good overall reading experience.

Petros Triantafyllou says

Urban Fantasy at its finest.

Jane Doe, as the title indicates, is a teenage weredeer. Now, one would think that being a weredeer is a big deal, but for Jane it's just life. After all, the rest of her family are weredeers as well, and they live in a small town in Michigan which is full of other shifters. So Jane leaves an ordinary, mundane life. Or at least she used to, up until the moment her best friend Emma (who's a werewolf btw) informs her that Jane's brother is the prime suspect for the murder of Emma's sister. What would a teenage girl do in such an event? Nothing less than investigate the murder herself, of course.

"The wind stopped for a second. I didn't know how long its invitation would last so I turned into my deer form and ran for the inside as quickly as possible. The moment my hind legs passed through the threshold, the door shut behind me and locked. We were getting some real haunted-house stuff here. Poltergeist meets the Evil Dead movies. I still had nightmares about the television and the laughing moose head."

I loved this book. What is there more to say? IWaTW has an interesting and unusual (in a positive way) format with a well-structured plot and a great in-depth characterization. The pace is excellent, with exciting yet dreadful events succeeding one another and building momentum for the finale.

The multi-leveled characters are likable (or compellingly distasteful) and interesting to follow. The world-building is masterfully developed and easy to delve in, and the magical elements are strategically placed to serve the story. Finally, I would be amiss if I didn't mention Phipps' delightful humor, full of deer puns and easy to spot cultural references.

All in all, I Was a Teenage Weredeer is an amazing urban/contemporary novel with a perfect blend of action and humor, and I highly recommend it to every fan of this genre.

Montzalee Wittmann says

I Was a Teenage Weredeer (Bright Falls Mysteries, #1)

by C.T. Phipps and Michael Suttikus

I was given this book to read and the review is voluntary, but boy would I be a real jerk not to tell everyone I could about this fun book! This book had me smiling or smirking or laughing or groaning frequently. Jane Doe, are gal of the story, yes... Jane DOE, is a shifter in the Deer family. All shifters in the area have a gift, hers iswell you have to read the story...this isn't a book report!

This book is sooo clever and fun, so full of puns too that apparently deer don't like, who knew?

There were moments of suspense, battling evil but not like I have ever read before. Nope, not like I have ever read before. This book is certainly a hoot. There is murder and mayhem. There is craziness and fun, all based around an ancient legend and spell. Mystery, twists, turns, adventure, magic, creatures, shifters, and more.

This book is a fun book to read and I enjoyed it tremendously!!! I can't wait for book 2!

Timy says

Actual rating: 3.5

I've got a copy from C. T. Phipps in exchange of an honest review. The full stuff can be found on my blog as well: starlitbook.com/2018/06/19/i-was-a-te...

The story is set in a small town in Michigan called Bright Falls, after the Revelation – the vampires decided it was time for a coming out and humanity had to face the reality of the supernatural. Michigan is one of the few places where shapeshifters can live in peace without being hunt down without any reason. Although the focus of the story lies elsewhere this conflict itself would be worth a novel. So Jane lives in Bright Falls and she wants to get as far away from it as she can get. Until, that is, the Revelation, which doesn't leaves too much choice for her. She could follow in her mother's footsteps, who is the shaman of the town, but she doesn't have enough magic for that. Or so she thinks. In the shapeshifter society every race has its own role to play: the weredeers (Jane's family) are the magic wielders, the ones who acts shaman for the community, the werewolves are the leaders, etc. However, times are changing, and now the Old Ways aren't the only set of rules they have to obey to. The government laid out new laws regarding the freshly arisen situation and things are still rocky and uncertain. Hence, not everyone is happy with how things are. If that wasn't enough (and you can never have enough trouble in a fantasy/mystery book) someone decided it was time to commit some ritualistic murders.

One of the victims is Victoria, Emma's sister, who happens to be Jane's best friend, member of the werewolf clan. Actually, the granddaughter of the werewolf clan's head, Marcus O'Henry. I give you a moment to process this: a deer and a wolf as best friends. Yep. And that's not all, Jane's sister dates Emma's brother, while Jane's brother, Jeremy dates Victoria. Thus Jeremy becomes the prime suspect in Victoria's murder. Emma begs to Jane to help her find out what happened using her physic abilities. She agrees more to help his brother than care for Victoria. Nonetheless she ends up flank deep in the investigation and the mystery surrounding the Darkwater Preserve, while everyone ends up dumping long kept secrets on her.

The pace of the book is a bit uneven, sometimes you wish the characters would move on from standing around and exchanging snarky comments and puns. Although the humor saves it and there are some really clever deer puns added. On the other hand, sometimes it feels like the author tries too hard to be funny and witty or explain the joke wich totally ruins the effect it could have. Also, there were too many pop cultural references for my taste, and while it might appeal for the geeky types out there, for me it was overdone. I especially liked the banter between Maria, Emma and Jane. And Kim Su! She was my favorite character, too bad she didn't have more role. Maybe in book 2.

And since we are talking about characters. They are the weak points of the book. By the end Jane grew on me with her snarky, sarcastic comments (her calling herself racist about every two page in one of the chapters really ticked me off though), and because I could absolutely sympathize with her on this:

"I don't want to be inconsequential. I don't want to be who I am. I want to be someone who matters. That requires being more than just a person who eats leaves three days a month."

Well, okay, maybe not the leaves eating part. However, I struggled to feel anything for Emma or Jeremy or the others. And they all had some crappy memory to carry with themselves too. I Was A Teenage Weredeer works with stereotypical characters – all women are gorgeous, except our MC of course, all the males are handsome or at least those who have important roles – which would be cool, if it managed to put on them a twist which would make them interesting enough. And that's where it fails. Sure, every one of them is a shapeshifter or a mage, has their Gifts and own dark or not so dark secrets, but that hardly makes it easy to tell them apart from each other. At least the guys are more separable with the quite lunatic FBI agent and the "bad guy" crime lord. I just wish Jane wouldn't act like a school girl around them. The complicated relationships/family ties aren't helping much either, and probably would've been better if it was left out

completely. However, it should be noted that there are a lot of serious topics being discussed underneath the YA-ish surface: tolerance towards each other regardless of our race, political views or sexual interests, abuse, dealing with death and guilt, etc. Also has thoughts like this:

“America is a study in contrasts. It is a nation founded on the principles of equality and democracy but built with slavery as well as genocide. We must acknowledge both sides of our heritage to forge the future.”

Which is pretty actual if you think about it.

I Was A Teenage Weredeer is a rather light, fun read with pop cultural references from Game of Thrones, Star Wars, Buffy and many others fans probably will deeply love and enjoy. Those who like YA will find this an enjoyable read with a snarky heroine, several supernatural species and a mystery that holds a few twists. When you think it's over, well, you have to think again. Underneath the cheesy, sarcastic surface however, are some thoughts which sets this book apart from the typical YA crowd. Plus the fact it has weredeers! And puns. Don't be surprised if you end up saying deer puns for a few days after reading I Was A Teenage Weredeer. It has that effect on you whether you liked it or not. Accept it.

Dyrk Ashton says

Trueblood meets Nancy Drew in this snarky urban fantasy with rapid-fire dialogue and action.

I enjoyed the hell out of this. It's YA, but that doesn't bother me at all. I read everything, even grade school and teen. It's where I find half if not more of the most interesting stories and characters, to tell the truth. There's nothing childish or naive about IWATWD, though. The characters are interesting and savvy, with a great sense of humor, and some quite new and refreshing. The story has harrowing and some downright creepy moments, and flies along, with the twists and turns of a detective novel--but with shapeshifters (and wizards, or that matter). When it comes right down to it, it's just plain a hell of a lot of fun. This is a series I could see going on and building momentum for a dozen books or more.

Readers note: The Kindle eBook copy I read was riddled with errors. Dozens upon dozens of them, in fact. I normally wouldn't bring that up. Hell, I find them in my own books months after publication, and for some reason, even trad books have more and more errors these days (yet nobody ever talks about that, God forbid), but there were enough here to throw me out of the story nearly every other page. HOWEVER, I have been informed that this was an editor and publisher's error that has since been rectified, which makes me very happy. I'd hate to see such a fun book lose credibility because of it. I have upgraded my star rating from 4 to 5 based on this information. Hopefully you can now read it with confidence, and enjoy.

M.K. Gibson says

Adorkable!

Disclaimer: I know CT Phipps and I was given the audiobook for free in exchange for an honest review.

BLUF: I liked it. I Was a Teenage Weredeer doesn't pretend to be anything more than it is. As part of Phipps' & Suttkus' United States of Monsters series, along with Straight Outta Fangton, I Was a Teenage

Weredeer is a great continuation on his world building. The town of Bright Falls MI is an amazing rustic place that reminds you a little of Twin Peaks and a lot off Gravity Falls.

The story revolves around a pop-culture obsessed shape shifter named Jane Doe (Yes, it's her real name and part of the book's knowing, cornball humor) as she is tasked with solving the murder of her best friend's sister . . . who's a werewolf.

You with me so far?

Without going into too many specifics, Jane is from a long line of shaman weredeer shifters. She has the ability to read objects and see psychic images. Kinda like Jeff Goldblum in that 80s movie with Cindi Lauper. Using her abilities, Jane and her rag-tag Scooby gang (a la Veronica Mars or Buffy) team up with a FBI Wizard and mega nerd, and go up against ancient spirits, local drug lords, mercenaries, magical beasts, ancient sins, and The Big Bad Wolf.

Trust me, it makes sense in context. With pluck, determination, and her ever growing abilities, Jane doesn't back down from the secrets and dangers of Bright Falls. She faces them in true heroic fashion which any fan of the urban fantasy genre will applaud.

That being said, I do have a new criticisms. First with the structure, as it felt like there was a a SNAFU with the end of the second act, being more like a third act, then late introduction to a pivotal character, and THEN the real third act. Second, Jane's (and ALL of her friends and allies) pop culture obsession. Now, I like the jokes and the slew of Sci-Fi geek references, but the tipping point comes when the entire cast of characters quote things that no 18 year old would say, or know, or cherish. Star Wars? Sure. Quoting The Fugitive? Doubtful. Lastly, this book does cover humans dealing with the reality of real-wold monsters, and said integration into society. The social-political impact is real and warranted considering the current time and climate. But, it seems like there's no less than three "That's racist! Sexist! Misogynistic!" per chapter. More so, it seems that certain things are said only for a character to call it out and move on.

But these are my issues, and in no way should prevent someone else from reading the book.

Long story short, I like the book, I like Jane Doe, and I love the world that Phipps and Suttkus created. I look forward to the sequel and the overall integration into The United States of Monsters world.

4/5 stars!

Dianne says

Quirky title-check

Quirky characters-check

Quirky dialogue-check

Fabulously entertaining read-check and double check-because, yes, there is a murder mystery to solve, and no, it wasn't the butler.

When her eighteenth birthday was ruined by the murder of her best friend's sister and her brother is the primary suspect, Jane Doe, weredeer, waitress and psychic must put her plans to escape small town life on hold, possibly indefinitely. There is a murder to solve and a brother to save, and Jane is on the case.

C.T. Phipps's **I WAS A TEENAGE WEREDEER** gives readers license to groan, laugh out loud and still be intrigued and invested in what could be an occult murder with dark undertones in a world where the supernatural have long ago been outed by vampires.

As Jane digs into her town's past, she discovers that even a place as kitschy as Bright Falls, Michigan there are secrets to uncover and some will hit pretty close to home. Suspects abound and even with the help of the FBI and a visit to the vampire medical examiner's vault, Jane will find herself running into dead-ends. The question remains, who dun it and why? Who can be trusted and who is fooling who? Unlikely allies and possible romantic entanglements will find Jane up to her antlers in chaos.

Prepare yourself to be thoroughly entertained by C.T. Phipps's wicked puns, social consciousness and a cast of characters that practically glow in the dark, they are so vibrant! Jane has attitude, snark and a talent for digging herself out of trouble, just barely. I loved her character!

Do yourself a favor, take a walk on the wild side, **I WAS A TEENAGE WEREDEER** is one of those gems that comes on like a tsunami of surprises! The entertainment value is priceless, the mystery is cozy and the pace is perfectly timed!

I received a complimentary copy from C.T. Phipps!

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Gavin says

This was a fun YA UF comedy that had a feel of Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Veronica Mars about it. The world was fun and packed with some cool magic. We got shape-shifting, spirits, and all sorts of other crazy magic. The story had plenty of humor and a bit of action and mystery. Some parts of it were weirdly dark despite the light tone!

The story followed 18 year old weredeer Jane Doe as she got caught up in solving the mystery of an occult killing of one of her classmates that her brother has been blamed for. As well as being a weredeer Jane also has the additional ability of being able to magically read objects. Which comes in pretty useful for detecting stuff!

I felt like the story was quite fun. Jane and her friend Emma were easy to like and both seemed pretty horrified by all the deer puns which helped to make them even more hilarious. The rest of the secondary characters proved decent enough as well be they friend or foe.

If I had to pick out some flaws I'd say some of the action towards the second half when Jane got caught up in battling the evil spirit was not all that exciting. Another slight flaw was the fact that all three major

secondary characters were attracted to Jane. This can be OK but annoyed me this time as I've been reading an absolute ton of wish-fulfilment stories like this of late and think I've hit burnout! I did actually like a bunch of the pop culture references in the story but felt like a few of them were out of place for an 18 year old lead character. Especially the music, gaming, and movie references. What kid watches and listens to a bunch of crap from the years before they were even born? I definitely did not!

This story was set in the same world as Phipps's Straight Outta Fangton. SoF focused on the vampires and was mostly set in the vampire haven of Detroit. I was a Teenage Weredeer switched the focus to the shape-shifters and a town in one of their only two haven states in Michigan. I felt like this worked well as a companion read to Straight Outta Fangton but I also feel like it could be easily read as a standalone in its own right.

All in all I felt like this was a fun UF read and I'll definitely be picking up the sequel.

Rating: 3.5 stars. A slight decrease in quality in the second half of the story added with the tiny flaws I mentioned ended up costing this one half a star.

Audio Note: I felt like Arielle DeLisle did a decent job with the audio. She has a good voice and seemed to get the tone of the story and the timing of her comedic delivery right most of the time. The one flaw was that a few of her secondary character voices could have been better. Still, on the whole I did like her performance.
