



Willow

Amy Richie

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“Being a werewolf is harder than it looks. Everyone thinks it’s just morph at the full moon, kill, morph back. That’s not true. It’s a lot harder than that. Especially if you are seventeen years old.”

Willow has the worst luck. First she has to deal with her narcissistic foster mother, Bella; then of course there’s her horrid little sister Ivy; not to mention the pack of werewolves that belong to Bella. Now, they have to move and start a new school - again.

Just when Willow thinks things can’t get any worse, Blake shows up from a council she never knew existed to name her leader of a pack she never knew existed. How was she supposed to teach a bunch of teenagers how to be wolves when she herself hated everything about her life?

Willow Details

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Author : Amy Richie

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From Reader Review Willow for online ebook

Christina M Condy says

Now this book is a great little read. It is 276 pages of non-stop fun. By the time I had finished reading the first chapter I just had to keep reading and before I knew it poof it was done.

I won't go into ANY story details other than what the blurb says. Willow is a werewolf, and an unhappy one at that. She didn't want to move, she doesn't want a pack of her own and she sure doesn't want to be a werewolf at all. This book is a definite coming of age story. Willow discovers that not only does she enjoy being a wolf but that she likes being pack-leader. But this coming of age doesn't come without quite a few bumps along the way.

The twists and turns the book take make you say okay what the heck, then when the story continues and shhhh can't tell you but trust me you will go okay seriously are you really serious!

Personally I can say I loved the character of Willow, I mean who the heck wouldn't want to be in charge of men and have them have to obey you? This story is a fun read and it's very easy to follow. It's great for the young adult or even younger or heck older too. I for one will be waiting patiently for the next book in this fabulous series.

Details/Disclaimer: Review copy was provided to me in exchange for a fair and honest review. The free book held no determination on my personal review.

Isha says

I loved how this book showed a different hierarchy than traditional werewolf books. In this series, females are the pack leaders. Yay for female empowerment! After a certain age, all female werewolves must leave the pack they grew up in and take over as the leader of a new pack or be a lone wolf. Willow has never wanted to be a pack leader, but after some circumstances arise, she is forced to be the new leader of the pack in the area she just moved to. I wish there was a little bit more detail about pack structure and mates. Seeing as this is an untraditional structure for werewolf novels, it would have made it a little easier to understand. At first, I did not like Willow with Gage, and instead thought she would end up with Rueben or Jed (I was secretly hoping it would be Rueben). After I while, I started really liking Gage. When Gage got really weird about Willow asking him what his real name was, I knew that he had to be either Mikhaul or Maddox. My guess was right in the end. The ending of the book I did not see coming, but I'm very happy at how it ended. Can't wait to see where it goes from here.

Rating: 4.5 Stars

Kim Justice says

My Review:

Okay, first of all, I Loved Reading This Book! A fast pace read. Once I started it I did not want to put it down.

Let's just say this, being a teenager is hard enough. But then you add in, being a werewolf, new in town, stepchild, hating being a werewolf. Oh, and then add in learning about others and being told you now are In Charge of them!

This was my first read from author Amy Richie and I absolutely can not wait to read more. Her writing is amazing. Her characters are way out there but down to earth at the same time. Fast pace but was also at a pace you didn't get lost either. I so enjoyed the whole story line and the characters.

So due to the above, if I could it would be higher, I am giving this book a Breath of Life ratings of:

Five Clock Rating!!!

Disclosure: I did receive the above book in exchange for my honest opinion and review. This is my own book and the opinions are my own and yours may differ.

Angela Dossett says

Female werewolf leading the pack. Very impressive. I purchased this book last night. I started it today, and to my dismay, I've finished it. I found the book to be very entertaining. The author has the talent to draw you into the world of werewolves. I liked the concept of females holding a dominant position dealing with the pack. The story involves a teenage girl named Willow. She and her sister, Ivy has been raised by Bella and taught (somewhat)about being a werewolf leader and what is expected. Willow longs to be just a normal girl, but she is pushed into taking over a pack of teenage male boys who have caught the eye of "The Counsel". She has help from a wise male werewolf named Gage. She tries to be responsible for the pack and tries to be a normal girl, though mistakes have been made. Secrets are revealed, eventually, concerning her pack. Willow takes a stand and refuses to give up her new family. Willow finds out who Gage really is. With threats on her new family, she makes the decision to move to a new location without Gage at her side. Will Gage come back? What challenges will Willow have to face to protect her pack? Will she ever see Ivy again? These are just a few questions I have. I'm definitely hooked. I'll be reading the next two books to find out the final conclusion. Happy Reading!!!! Cheers!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Merisha28 says

I received this book in exchange for a honest review ~WaAr~

Willow by Amy Richie

This book is recommended for young adults and adults. If you love shapeshifters, werewolves, and vampires; this is the book for you. I just fell in love with this book and the story line. There were so many twists and turns that I didn't foresee coming. The author then left the ending amazing and I'm am dying of thirst for more. I fell in love with the characters and the relationship they had with one another. I loved Willow from the start, especially because it reminded me of myself in high school. I am dying dying to read the next installment of this wonderful, exciting, and fun series! Did I tell you I love love love this book! I read it in a day and it is such an easy and fast read! The story flows amazingly and the dialog is easy to follow. I

couldn't find a thing wrong or critique wise I would change.

The story is about Willow Bennet, who with her adopted mother Bella and Sister-Ivy, move to a small town with her mothers pack. Willow meets Rueben in town one day and she doesn't know it but her world is going to change for good. Blake comes the next day from the council and puts Willow in charge of her own pack. Bella and Ivy leave with their pack. Everything Willow thought she new will be doubted and challenged. Will she make it? What will happen? You WILL have to READ this AMAZING book! I give it a FIVE STAR REVIEW.

Jane says

Living with her guardian, Bella, and annoying younger sister Ivy, Willow is not happy when they have to move home...again! Starting a new school is never easy but when you constantly have to watch what you say and keep secrets about yourself, it makes finding new friends difficult and tiresome. A few overly curious boys at school pique Willows interest, but it's only when Blake from the council shows up that Willow learns the truth about her situation. Willow fully understands that as a female she will one day have to lead her own pack of males, but at only seventeen she thought she had more time to prepare for adulthood.

Willow is a werewolf story with a difference. It is interesting and makes a nice change to see the female in charge and leading the pack, I am so used to 'Alpha-males' that I hadn't given any thought to just how outdated 'our' mind set is until I saw things from this new perspective! As leader Willow is full of insecurities, she doesn't automatically know what is right or even best for her pack, sometimes she makes mistakes but when it comes to loyalty she is behind them and they are behind her 100%. I definitely enjoyed the refreshing take on this fairly common premise.

Amy Richie is a competent writer with the ability to draw the reader in with her easy flowing prose and varied vocabulary. Though her idea has some familiar patterns it contains enough original material to make the story unique adding flare to this well used subject matter.

Valerie McQueen says

My review of Willow by Amy Richie

Rating 5*****

This book was provided free from the author in exchange for honest literary review. The opinions voice here are solely my own

Willow has a rough life for a teenage girl. First she was orphaned as a young girl. Then she was turned into a female werewolf. Now it seems it is time to leave the pseudo mom she has had and her sister. It is time she took over her own pack.

The pack Willow is introduced to is beyond green. A motley crew of teens....it is amazing they haven't gotten

everyone either killed or exposed at this point. Seeing the need for leadership, she agrees to take over the pack. She was given a helper in Gage, an old dreamy were who reeks of dreaminessand experience. Thank you for finally making a female lead who isn't arrogant but at the same time isn't helpless. Willow has a heart and cares for each of the boys in her pack. While she does discipline, she also teaches and explains why things have to be a certain way. Love it !!! She also takes a firm stand when necessary and leads with strength. Such a refreshing approach for a writer to take.

I also didn't miss out on Willows quick wit at times. It makes the story so much more loveable. I can't really find much in this book I didn't likeexcept Bella, but that would be too many spoilers lol. This is a no miss book in all honesty. One of the best I have picked up this year !!!!!!!!

Samantha says

This book was great. Better than I could have imagined. I am not the kind of girl who is really into werewolves, but this book changed my mind.

Willow is a 17 year-old girl who wants nothing more than to be a normal teenager. Hang out with the popular kids, become a cheerleader and enjoy her high school years. Unfortunately this has never been an option for Willow. She is a werewolf and it is impossible for her and her family to stay anywhere for too long.

Just when Willow is starting to settle in to her new home, things change drastically. Blake shows up from the council and tells Willow that she will be taking over a pack of her own. She will be in charge of teaching a pack of teenage boys. How is she going to do this when she doesn't even like being a wolf. The only family she has ever known is moving on without her, and she will have to face this new role by herself. Well, almost by herself. She will meet Gage, a wolf that is much older than her and maybe Gage can help her a long the way. And she will also make a friend... is it even possible for werewolves to have friends?

There are many other surprises coming Willow's way as well. Will she be able to handle it all? Is she going to be able to get past the ghost stories that her foster mother told her as a child? Is she finally going to have a place that can be her true home? Will she live up to everything that is expected of her?

I give this book 5 stars. It took no time at all for me to be absorbed into the story. The characters were well written, especially Willow. Aside from being a werewolf, she came across as a very normal teenager. Her attitude, her worries, boys, everything. As I finished this book, Richie left me wanting more. Wondering and questioning what could possibly come next.

I loved this book and I will definitely be recommending it!

**This book was given to me from the author for an honest review.

Megan says

This story was okay, but nothing all that great. I don't know if I was supposed to be surprised at one of the reveals in the story, but I had guessed that immediately and thought it took way too long to be revealed.

Willow was an okay character, but I did find her annoying at times as well. I don't think I'll continue with this series.

Erin says

One of my favorite aspects of Amy Richie's Willow is that she created a pack society dependent on alpha females. Real packs depend on alpha females. I know that sounds ridiculous, but in thinking on it, I can't name another author who chose to push the social hierarchy of wolves on humans rather than the reverse. For me it is refreshing, but on a larger scale it shows Richie's ability to think outside the box which is pretty cool.

Now fair warning, the story revolves around a high school girl and a pack adolescent boys. Teenage drama and hormonal episodes are a given so if you can't handle that, don't bother and if you think you can and discover otherwise, don't take it out on Richie. You weren't the bad ass you imagine you were in high school and neither is Willow. She is insecure and still learning how to handle herself. I'll grant it gets old, but at the end of the day she still makes more sense than most kids her age.

I won't say Richie is on par with Patricia Briggs, but she does have a thing or two on a lot of young adult writers. Her work is rough, it has a few slow patches and I can't say I lost myself in the story, but it is well-written and just might be the start of something very cool.

Sarah Kalaitzidis says

This book started off strong, but it quickly went downhill. I usually love female pack leader stories, but Willow made me think that women should never lead.

The plot wasn't that great or original. I did like how the females in a pack were the leaders. Until we meet Willow, who I find to be an indecisive brat. Not a good trait for a leader. I could blame it on her youth, but I'm just not that fond of her character. Willow's pack is rather weakly written into the story. Half the characters are forgettable, and they make no impact on me to help me remember who's who. It took me a while to figure out who does what in the pack. Of the memorable characters, Gage makes the most impact to the plot line. That being said, his character is too predictable. The book itself takes place too quickly for details to make sense, and rather important parts aren't explained. I think that it was written too quickly, and the editor and author should have edited it longer before the book went to print.

The book takes place in Grover, but that's a rather minor detail. They're always moving from town to town, because that's apparently what werewolves do. Why do they move around? Basically, it's because of the werewolf female's paranoia. Yep, and they're in charge of the pack. Not all of them are, but Willow and her foster-mother Bella (who Willow was living with at first) sure are. They'll move their packs right away over the smallest of things. There was one incident that I can agree moving the pack over, but most of the reasons are rather foolish. With all this moving around, it makes me wonder how many small towns there are in the USA, and how many packs there are? Surely, someone would notice these people moving from place to place...

As the book starts, we learn right away that Willow is going to be the new leader of a young group of boys. She's not ready for being a leader, and I think she never will be. She's selfish and indecisive about many things. Not a leader you want for a bunch of boys. She's also possessive, and doesn't want her pack members to have a life outside of the pack. In one instant, she gets angry when the pack members want to be normal teens and date girls outside the pack. She says it's dangerous, but I don't see how when they haven't shown themselves to be dangerous. Maybe she knows something we don't? Willow wants to be a cheerleader, then she doesn't want to be a cheerleader. She doesn't want to go to prom, but then she does want to go to. I think I would want to scream if I actually had to deal with a girl like that.

One character I find to be a useless main character is Carlie. She's supposed to be Willow's human friend. She's able to catch onto Willow and the boys being werewolves. I can see how she maybe made the connection to the boys, but not to Willow. It also seems that the author decided at the last minute to give Carlie some kind of powers, but it didn't seem well written. I think that Carlie was a rushed add-in, and the time wasn't taken to make sure her place made sense.

At first, I found that Gage was an interesting character, but his twist in this story really didn't feel like a twist. He first appears as a dirty old man, but then transforms into a hot young guy. He's described as hairy, but since he's now supposed to be attractive, I can't think of how to imagine him anymore. The transformation was predictable though, but Willow's reaction to him was funny. I could not take their conversations seriously, because he never lied to her. The person who brought her to him lied, and he just upheld that lie for that person. There's no drama, no tension!

There are six members of Willow's pack, but only two of them were really memorable, Reuben and Jed. Reuben acts as the leader of the group, and stands up to everyone, including Willow. Jed the perverted one, and he tries to get close to her. He does because her 'boyfriend', but I wouldn't really call him a boyfriend... I know, it's confusing. The forgettable boys in the pack are Colby, Tyson, Rodney and Steven. Sure they each get their time to shine, but not long to make them memorable.

So, how does Willow react to her pack? Not well. As I mentioned before, Willow was thinking of kicking out Reuben because he wouldn't listen to her. But when Rodney accidentally attacks her (still not sure how you can accidentally attack someone), she keeps him in the pack. Even though everyone else wanted him to be kicked out. She takes one look at him and announces that she wasn't going to kick him out. Uh, WHAT?! You want to keep the guy who attacks you, but not the guy who questions you and could make you a better leader? Sure, okay. I think those scenes were unnecessary to the book and would have been fine without it. They just make her seem like a poor leader, making unwise decisions. Sure, she's new to being a leader. She even said she's getting used to being a leader. But what frightens me is that all females are born to lead a pack. I think that a screening process is needed, because this girl is not ready!

In a related note, Willow loves to keep the pack members to herself. Her words were "My boys." Hers, and no one else's. Only she's allowed to 'date' (I wouldn't really call it dating, but it's the best way to describe it), but the pack members aren't allowed. Because of a story Willow heard a long time ago, she wants complete control over her pack. It makes me feel that she wants the pack to revolve around her.

The romance in this book was pointless and annoying. After meeting her new pack, they all start to say she needs a boyfriend. Yes, that's right, the boys decide on a boyfriend for her. Willow has no say in the matter. Since Reuben is taken (but, I thought the boys weren't allowed to date...) Jed acts as her boyfriend. I don't get why she didn't just say no, and that she didn't want a boyfriend. It's clear that she didn't want one, and she's the LEADER! It's within her powers to say no. Jed takes it upon himself to then kiss her on the lips, basically stealing her first kiss. This is one of those moments that make me question the author and editor, since the next day, he disappears (I'm not saying why without giving spoilers). This leaves her free for another pack member to take the place of her boyfriend. Willow now starts getting jealous over Reuben being with another girl. So, you don't want a boyfriend, therefore none of your pack should date... Okay... She still remains jealous when she falls for the hairy guy, Gage. Yep, she's crushing on him before he shaves and reveals himself to be young and attractive. Maybe the werewolves walk around with permanent beer goggles? Her flip-flopping gets even more painful when you realize that this takes place all in the first few pages!

My recommendation if you read this book? Grab your favourite drink and make a drinking game of it. It's just that bad.

Kristin Scearce says

Disclaimer: I received an e-book copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

"Willow" is about Willow Bennett, an average 17-year-old high-school student. Who happens to be a werewolf. Who just found out she's been nominated to lead a pack of other young werewolves. All while navigating the joys of typical high school life and trying not to get seen/caught/killed in the process.

I just have to get this out there: I'm absolutely CRAZY about this book!!! From the very start, Willow's personality just dragged me into the story and never let me go. The way she handles things is exactly how I would expect a 17-year-old girl to deal with being a werewolf, let alone a leader with all these new-found responsibilities thrust upon her: she's sarcastic, emotional, a "doubting Thomas," but ultimately she takes everything in stride (once she gets a few good remarks in). There are so many wonderful characters, it's hard to pick a favorite, and all the members of Willow's pack just mesh so well together, it feels like you're a part of it, too.

I don't think I've been pulled into a book so well in years. This is not "Twilight," don't even compare it. This story has background, twists, turns, a little romance (but not too much), and in the end, it definitely leaves you craving the next part of the series. I wish I could give this more than 5 stars, but I guess I'll just have to settle for that. Bravo, Amy Richie, you've made a lifetime fan in me. =)

Lburt says

I've got a few mixed feels about his book. I really wanted to like it more but there were a few things I just couldn't get over. Willow herself. I liked Willow she's a nice character but an Alpha female she is not. I agree with her own feelings that she lets her pack down. I got that she was unsure in the beginning of the

book but I felt by the end she should have been making better decisions. Then theres her sort of beau, man he gives mixed signals the whole book and I didn't fine him to be that great of a catch. One of the pack boys would have better like Jeb. I liked him a lot. Lastly was some of the werewolf issues. I find myself an avid werewolf reader and I liked how this one was different with Willow being in charge but they weren't very werewolfy. Willow hardly mentions smells and regular humans snick up on her all the time. So are her sense normal when she two footed or were those two important traits just forgotten. Like I said I did enjoy this book hence the three stars I think there suppose to be a book two and the ending lead me to believe that Willow will one day find her Alpha strength. I guess will just have to wait and see.

Mandy says

Willow is a werewolf but she hasn't always been a werewolf she once was human but as a child she was bitten as well as her little sister and raised by Bella a female pack leader. The girls grew up living with Bella in the plans that one day they would lead their own packs but when the time comes for Willow to take her own pack she's not sure she is up to the challenge. With the last move Bella has already planted Willow in the school with her new pack, and with the help of Gage her "Uncle" she should be able to lead a pack of teenage boys.

Being a werewolf is hard, leading a pack of boys is even harder but surviving high school may just be the end of Willow. With the help of her boys she integrates into the school as one of the popular girls even becoming a cheerleader. As she gets better at fitting in at school things in her real life go wonky, one of her pack is shot so they have to fake his death, next one of the guys is seen running as a wolf. One of her new friends at school knows about their secret and even has one of her own. What about the plans of the council who placed Willow with the pack? What about her feelings for Gage her protector? Will she survive high school?

I wasn't sure about Willow at first and maybe that's because I expect my werewolves to be tough. Willow hasn't had the best life, her parents were murdered and she was turned into a werewolf with her little sister. Willow has been beaten down by her sister and the werewolf who raised her. As she spent more time on her own, falling for Gage and learning to live with the boys she got better. The more the book progressed the more I loved her character and I decided she's tough just broken. I liked Gage he's got a past but he's a good guy, and her wolf pack they are an interesting mix of guys.

I've had Willow on my TBR pile forever picked up a kindle copy ages ago and it's still been on my kindle. When I needed a "W" book for my final team-challenge it was a no brainer for me. The author has taken the werewolf concept adding her own unique twists and spinning a captivating story. The way the wolves change is smoother than most and add in learning to shift and not destroy your clothes I'm sold sign me up. The characters are easy to connect with, you can't help falling in love with the guys even Willow as the book progressed I was cheering her own. Her story is a little emotional after all she's a little broken but it's worth it. I had a hard time putting the book down I was drawn right into the story if not for real life I would have stayed up all night reading. Willow has it all action, romance, suspense and mystery all woven into an intriguing story. I honestly enjoyed the whole story it's well written and the author has done a beautiful job creating an exciting new series. I can't wait to start the next one it's sitting on the shelf looking at me. I love the cover with the wolves it's just screaming read me.

Autumn says

This novel was given to me via the publisher for my honest opinion..

First of all Amy Richie i dont know whether to love you or hate you.. i was completely transfixed by Willow.. im sleep deprived and scatter brained.. SOOO lets talk about this book shall we..

Willow is a werewolf.. Her and her sister Ivy (also a werewolf) are being raised by Bella.. They are being raised to be future pack leaders because in this society women rule.. woohoo!! I always enjoy a good matriarch.. So being a werewolf doesnt come as easy to Willow as it does to Ivy.. Willow just wants to be a normal teenager a cheerleader maybe have some friends.. Oh and to stay in the same place for longer than six month.. but you cant always get what you want.. They have just moved to another small town and suddenly guys are going out of their way to make Willow happy.. The hot guy Ruben is giving her the eye.. Although Willow is only 16 and not of age (age being 17) she comes to find out the reason for THIS move was to introduce her to her NEW pack.. Not ready to be a leader she reluctantly agrees to become this packs new leader at least until Ivy is of age then she can take over..

Leading doesnt come easy to her but shes trying and shes learning channeling Bella and seeking advise from Gage her pretend uncle who in my head is Zac Efron they may not look alike and to be honest i forgot how Gage is supposed to look because again in my head hes ZAC.. Clearly im insane i enjoy it and run with it whenever possible.. So lemme explain Gage the pretend uncle.. After introducing Willow to her new pack.. Bella and Ivy skip town well you need a cover story and well an uncle is as good as anything else right? well i think wrong.. but ill go with it.. Gage is an old werewolf apparently males age incredibly slowly while females age regularly.. Soon enough Willow finds herself attracted to GAGE see my point yet? Okay back to the story her pack has amazing influence at school and given her what shes desired friends! Carlie.. Aubrey and Lindsey CHEERLEADERS! They help Willow make the squad everything is going swimmingly well if you dont count the death and wolf sightings.. ugh men right! A few surprises some i totally predicted other i was really surprised with.. The biggest surprise to me was when i completed the book.. i completely taken when i turned my page and BAM about the author.. Needless to say i cant wait for book 2 to be released!
