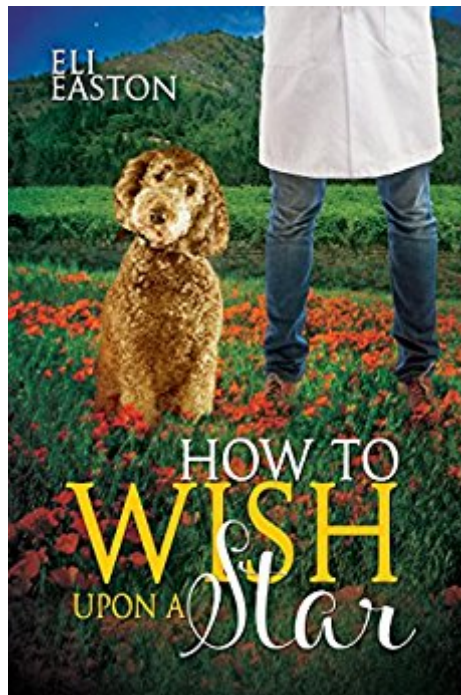




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How To Wish Upon A Star (Howl At The Moon Book 3)



Synopsis

Dr. Jason Kunik is working on the most earth-shattering genetics project ever, DNA mapping of a new species, the quickened—dogs who can shift into human form. The problem is, no one knows the quickened exist and Jason can't betray them by publishing his studies. When he moves to Mad Creek to continue his research in a town full of quickened, all he wants is peace, quiet, and to be allowed to bury himself in his work. Perhaps if he figures how out the mutation is activated, he can silence his own inner dog forever. Milo is a hospice comfort dog who has bonded with, and lost, many beloved patients in his life. He intuitively understands sickness and pain on a spiritual level most can't see. When he gains the ability to become a man, he thinks he finally has everything he ever wanted. But being a man isn't the same thing as being loved, and taking shelter in Mad Creek isn't the same thing as finding a home. When a mysterious illness hits Mad Creek and threatens all the quickened in town, it's up to the scientist and the comfort dog to figure out what it is and how to stop it. Along the way they might discover that true love is possible—if you wish upon a star. This is the third book in the "Howl at the Moon" series, but it can be read as a stand-alone.

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Customer Reviews

Because Milo."Milo was definitely in that category of things that were spontaneously wonderful."What a cutie patootie! He's one of those MCs/peeps that are so fundamentally good, innocent, altruistic, and guileless that you want to hug again and again then stand sentinel over. Like a little golden angel sent to spread warmth and joy to all the peoples.Squirrel!Back when I got my current ding dong. It was decided that he absolutely, unequivocally was not under any circumstances going to sleep in the bed. He had a pimp playpen. PIMP! It was outfitted with his toys, blankets, a pillow, his lil water dish; it was the puppy equivalent of an MTV crib.First night he falls asleep, like the puppies do, and I gently place him in the playpen then go do my deal, had laid down and not five minutes later I hear it. The howling. Not just regular howling either. NOOOOOOOOOO. This was the "I'm going to die, this is the most awfulest thing that's ever happened in my liiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii howling. Which, admittedly, it prolly was. Lil tyke was only like 10 wks old and it was his first night away from his mom and siblings. Which is what I'm telling myself as I'm lying there debating whether or not I should go collect him.Three guesses what happened next. The first two don't count either.Nearly 10 yrs later and guess who still sleeps on the bed sometimes? So when Jason caved that first night upon hearing Milo crying in the spare bedroom I knew he wasn't as big a meanie as he was perpetrating to be.I actually think in a lot of ways Milo is stronger than Jason. Jason's got a whole lot of anxiety and Milo being a comfort dog really balanced out their relationship. Once again, Easton did a fantastic job integrating the dog characteristics. Milo being so young when he quickened and his speech patterns were the stuff of awww. Potato sticks! Jason's highly organized and regimented but the power of Milo is he senses when the anxiety gets to be too much; it's innate.They both have stuff some of which is weighty, but Easton had them fit together so well and developed their connection on multiple levels. I really loved how their strengths helped the other making their "weaknesses" obsolete. How it mattered not that Milo doesn't have the book smarts that Jason does because he has the people smarts that Jason doesn't.This story arc is engaging and kept me riveted even though it's kind of science-y which is not my gig. I still found myself feeling a sense of urgency about the virus and finding a vaccine.Still love Mad Creek to pieces. Always. Lance and Tim and Lily. I will continue to believe Lily set the whole

first pack meeting where Jason and Milo meet up as an elaborate matchmaking ruse. Because Lily. The other dogs are super cute too and I have excite about Rav's story. The sex was sweet and hot. My favorite part was how much Milo liked the kissing and was following Jason's face wherever it went to get back to that and that he kept trying to crawl on Jason."Heaven. It felt like heaven. Like awakening from a nightmare to find you were safe and sound. Like pulling into port after an endless journey. Like plugging into a battery source when you are about to run dry. Like Milo."Milo's adorable! Jason's slightly prickly but totes huggable and I still found him adorable especially when he got all anxious about keeping Milo safe. The whole thing was adorable and heartfelt. I'm glad I read it because it put a smile on my face. You should read it too!

My Review:Overall: 4.0Performance: 4.25Story: 4.0This book had a slightly different feel from the rest of the series. It had a sense of suspense to it that the other two books haven't had and I really liked that addition. In this book there is a new researcher who's moved to Mad Creek. He lived there growing up, but his mom was a wanderer so they didn't stay. He's a quickened and is doing research into how that actually happens...somewhat unsuccessfully. Jason isn't very good with people and he tends to make his interviewees cry.Milo is the opposite. He's a newly quickened human who is naturally drawn to people. He gives comfort and can sense what's wrong with others. Unlike most quickened, Milo never had one place to call home. First he was in a shelter and then he came to live as a comfort dog in an old folks home. He always knew when the residents were about to pass. But because of that, he fairly traumatized. He never had anyone to get attached to or a place to call home, and then he had to deal with the people he cared about dying and abandoning him. It's heartbreaking. He has PTSD to a certain extent, so when he moves in with Jason and has a person and place to call home, he quickly gets attached...although he's new to this whole human thing, so he doesn't understand the nuances of relationships.The suspense aspect comes from a new virus which is invading Mad Creek. The virus strikes and the human can't help but shift to their dog form. If they can't find a cure, then they're afraid the sick dogs will revert to their animal form forever.This was my favorite in the series so far. I loved how both these guys are so incredibly socially awkward...just in totally different ways. They are both really great characters though and I loved how good they were together. They truly do bring out the best in one another.These books are always good for a light-hearted fun listen and this was another good one. I'm hoping there's more to come for the series...I'd love to see the kennel owner who was introduced in this story find his HEA (hint, hint).

I read book two and then the third in the series both did not require reading the books in order, but now I have ordered the first one and expect to love it as much. What a fun twist on the wolf shifter stories. Not a wolf in sight but instead a town of multi-generational and newly "quickened" dogs. Lovable pets that became human when their previous owner died. The town of Mad Creek welcomes them all, finding them a place to live, classes in reading and writing and how to be human. It's full of humor friendship and love. Just imagine trying to be human after living years as a dog. The new humans retain many of the traits of their breed and other traits such as sniffing each other and wagging their rear ends when happy. I sure hope there are more books in this series

I liked the other two better, but this was still very much a 5 star book! Jason really grows on you, and Milo is such a cutie. I like how the first book was like pure romance with a tiny bit of mystery, the second was crime drama (and romance), and this one is a romantic medical thriller. So neat!

These books are best read in order for maximum grokking* of all the characters and interactions, and the deeper concerns of Mad Creek. Read them if you are fond of dogs, love, family, secrets, and complex m/m romance. I've enjoyed each one in its own right. This one tickled my science geek's fancy. And, Milo. His origin is excruciatingly poignant, and his and Jason's personalities of course cause trouble. Easton does impossible things with bizarre concepts and strange characters. Again.*Grok is a word Robert A. Heinlein invented for *Stranger In A Strange Land*. It is Martian. It means literally "to drink" and figuratively 'to understand deeply, intuitively'.

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