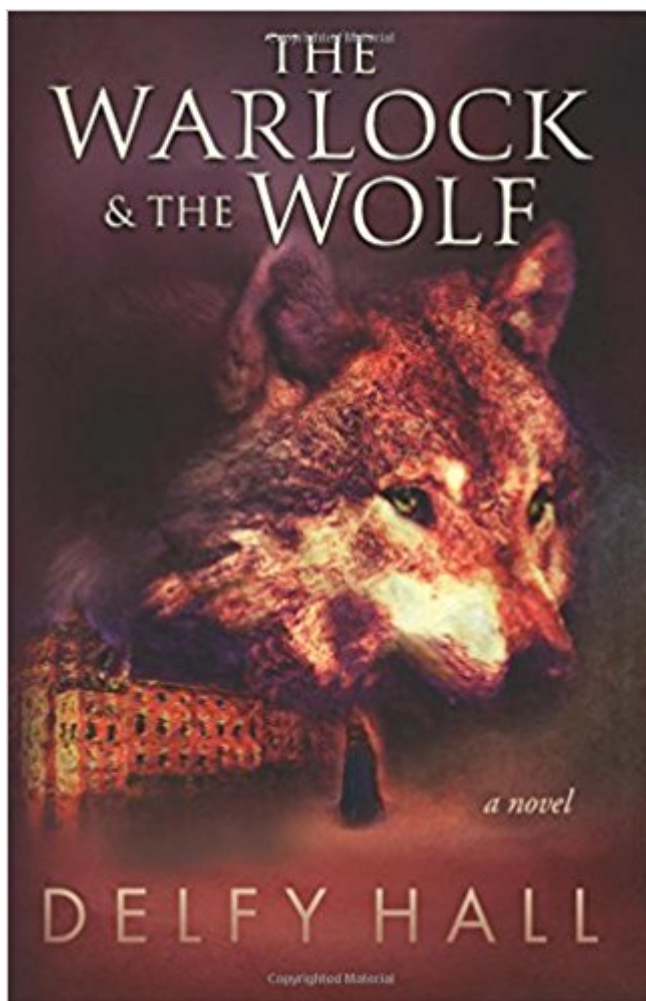


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The Warlock And The Wolf (The Naturalist) (Volume 1)



Synopsis

Mina stands up for animals. But can she stand up to her parents' murderer?"Uncannily believable" --Historical Novel Society
Brave orphan Mina dreams of becoming a great scientist, even though she's just a beginner. But when her parents' killer escapes from prison and threatens to kill again, she must make the terrifying leap from apprentice to master--if she wants to survive.
Book 1 of The Naturalist combines historical fantasy with thrilling adventure and a touch of Renaissance romance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for THE WARLOCK AND THE WOLF: "[Fox's] portrayal of a Dutch Golden Age intertwined with magical elements of high fantasy feels uncannily believable, and Mina herself is a memorably wonderful character, compassionate and grounded as her personal world is thrown into chaos." --Historical Novel Society
"This strong blend of history and fantasy gets this series off to a strong start." --The Booklife Prize in Fiction
Winner, Nautilus Gold Award Finalist, North Street Book Prize
"Hall's portrayal of a Dutch Golden Age intertwined with magical elements of high fantasy feels uncannily believable, and Mina herself is a memorably wonderful character, compassionate and grounded as her personal world is thrown into chaos." --Historical Novel Society
"This strong blend of history and fantasy gets this series off to a strong start." --The Booklife Prize in Fiction

Marianne Fox's first novel won the Nautilus Gold Award. She received her master's

degree in writing from UT Austin, where she was awarded the Michener Scholarship. She lives in her home state of Kentucky with a pack of geriatric dogs, who help her write fantasy fiction. Visit mariannefox.com, or follow Marianne on Facebook.

I stumbled upon this book accidentally, having found it while I waited in my veterinarian's office for news of emergency surgery. The setting couldn't have been more appropriate as I fell headlong into this story. I never read adventure stories, and I wouldn't have picked this one up, but the alternative were back issues of Runner's World magazine. But, I am so glad I did. Utterly fantastical, the *Warlock and the Wolf* is nonetheless precisely realized. The worry I felt for my pet never left me, but Ms. Hall transported me to a place that eased my anxiety and quickened my senses. How, I continually wondered, could the heroine get herself in yet another impossible bind? And how, pray tell, could the author get her out of it without repeating herself? Ms. Hall's imagination is algorithmic, architectural, and thrilling. Her world is airtight in its believability, yet aflame with intrigue, tension, and action. My dog is healed nicely, and here beside me, as is this recently finished paperback, spine broken from heavy reading. I am no kid, and to call this a young adult book is fine, but not quite right. It is a book for anyone young enough to suffer a quickened pulse and an opened heart. Thank you, Ms. Hall, for the adventure.

The *Warlock and the Wolf* is the story of a girl. She is a very unique girl with a special interest in nature and she desires to rise to a place where women traditionally could not hope to aspire to. Mina lives in Holland, yet this Holland that is created for us by Delfy Hall is unlike any you have ever imagined. There is magic galore, witches and warlocks. In the midst of this is our budding naturalist, the orphaned Mina, whose parents were supposedly murdered by an evil warlock. This warlock has been kept imprisoned by the power of a witch, but in the very beginning of this book we witness the death of this witch and the evil warlock is released from his prison. He sets out immediately to carry out his nefarious plans, and those plans involve the poor, unsuspecting Mina. As Mina navigates the world of a young woman, tries to assist her mentor in his duties AND keep herself safe from the clutches of the warlock who killed her parents. During one of her nature excursions she is scratched by a very strange bird-like creature and after that she finds that she can commune with animals. She is horrified at first, but soon learns that this ability will be her one saving grace. A very believable friendship develops with a wolf who helps her unravel the mystery surrounding the horrible doom that surrounds her. The ground is laid for a sequel, so we can expect more from Mina in the future as she goes in search of her family. This book was nicely paced and held my attention

throughout. There was just enough magic and just enough realism to make this one believable. Mina is a plucky, headstrong young heroine and I really liked her because her mind wasn't solely on romance, although the topic does come up from time to time. There is more to this girl than the concerns of the young. She is deeper than that and that is what I liked about her the most. I think you will find you really like her, too.

I have read many first novels, and, quite frankly, many of them are pretty rough. Not so for Delfy Hall's *The Warlock and The Wolf*. Her characters are fully developed, she has a very strong female lead, and her writing style is adept and enjoyable. Sure, I have a few nits, but not enough to lower my love for this book (I've sent my minor complaints to the author so I can avoid spoilers here). Hall has talent. I can't wait for book 2 in this series. This YA fantasy novel transported me to a world that was exciting and vividly painted. It is filled with internal and external struggle of Mina as she tries to make a place for herself in a patriarchal society while hunting and being hunted by a warlock. Along the way, she gains certain abilities that many would say marks her as a witch. Hall does a wonderful job when writing about the intolerance of the ignorant.

This is a wonderful story! The characters are strongly conceived and vivid, each one working towards something that makes for a great plot with mounting tension. The historical detail is excellent, capturing the sights, sounds and smells of seventeenth century Hague. The writer has a fluid prose style and almost perfect pitch in mixing dialogue and description. I can't think of anything I didn't like about his book. I want to read more about Mina and look forward to the next installment!

I loved this book! I don't usually read fantasy, but I connected with the strong female protagonist, the location of the Hague, and the link to nature. I wish I had my own Basa to protect me. (You have to read to understand). I stayed up all night finishing it, even when I felt tiny bit scared that there might a strix outside my window. I'm looking forward to reading the next book when Mina travels to Brazil. I think this book would also make a great movie or series like "Game of Thrones."

The Warlock and the Wolf is a very well written imaginative tale that I would recommend to any fantasy lover! The characters are engaging and memorable as the author's voice takes the reader down an enjoyable journey into an often overlooked part of our history. I will forever hear the voice of a chipmunk or squirrel as they chatter at me on my walks saying, "Nut?" as a result of this book! Very well done!

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