

Nina Blazon

Wolfszeit

WOLF TIME

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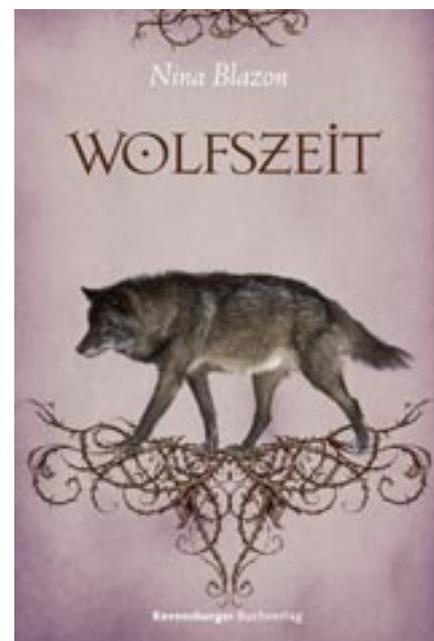
In the middle of the 18th century, a beast is terrorizing the small town of Gévaudan in the French province of Auvergne. Thomas, a painter, and the noblewoman Isabelle are on the trail of the murderous beast that is roaming the forests, spreading fear and anxiety. Before long, a giant wolf is hunted down and displayed as a trophy. The case seems to be closed, but Thomas is convinced that a person is behind the murder. After a serious argument with Isabelle, he returns to his hometown. Soon thereafter, Isabelle tries to inform Thomas that the murders are still happening, in spite of a royal ban. Thomas risks his life to track down the actual killer. This is a superbly researched historical thriller intertwined with a powerful love story.

CONTENT

On behalf of King Louis XV, a delegation travels to Gévaudan in Auvergne to hunt down the beast that has been terrorizing the people of that small town. The young painter Thomas accompanies the party to make a portrait of the creature. Thomas is happy to escape the stifling conventions of the court at Versailles. He is especially skeptical about his father's ambitious plans for social climbing through arranging Thomas's marriage.

In Gévaudan, Thomas meets the young noblewoman Isabelle, who with her temperamental, impulsive nature forms a stark contrast to the ladies of Versailles. Over the course of his stay, Thomas and Isabelle grow close to each other and finally fall in love. Thomas begins to research the beast and the murder, and it soon becomes clear to him that this cannot be the work of either a demon punishing people for their sins or a wolf alone. He is convinced that a human being is responsible for the attack.

With the help of the villagers, a giant wolf is indeed hunted down, identified as the attacker, stuffed and transported back to court as a trophy. And thus the case is closed, for everyone but Thomas. Following a fight with Isabelle, he returns to his father. But then he receives a package of



sketches from her, which he supposedly had left in Gévaudan. Not until the day of the wedding his father arranged for him does Thomas recognize that Isabelle was trying to send him a message through the drawings - that the murders in Gévaudan have continued - in spite of a royal ban. Thomas calls off the wedding and immediately sets out for Auvergne. In the end he is actually able to solve the mystery: a childhood friend of Isabelle's had committed the gruesome murders along with two trained mixed-breed wolves. As actually happened in history, the "beast" is then executed by the innkeeper Jean Chastel with a single shot. After the scandal surrounding his cancelled wedding, Thomas can no longer return to his hometown, so he moves to Versailles, as does Isabelle. It seems the two of them may yet have a chance for a shared future, after all.

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THE AUTHOR

Nina Blazon, born in 1969, studied Slavic and German Studies and completed an internship in the field of editing. She taught at several universities, wrote copy for an advertising agency for four years, and has been a freelance journalist for daily newspapers and magazines. Since 2003 she has written books for children and teens in the genres of fantasy, historical fiction and mysteries. With her books, Nina Blazon aims to take her readers along on dazzling, exciting journeys from which they return exhilarated and inspired. The author lives and works in Baden-Wurttemberg.

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