

'Behind that façade, you're no meek little puss-in-boots': Were creatures in Yasmine Galenorn's *Sisters of the Moon* series.

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In this paper I would like to explore dual personalities of were creatures in Yasmine Galenorn's *Sisters of the Moon* books. This urban fantasy series tells the story of three Fae sisters from Otherword, who are now based in Seattle. Each sister is different: the eldest, Camille, is a witch. Delilah is a shapeshifter, turning into a tabby cat, and later also a panther. And Menolly is an acrobat-turned-vampire. Camille, Delilah and Menolly take turns in narrating each book, so the reader gets more rounded perspective of their lives and struggles with their awry powers, result of their half-human half-Fae heritage.

In this paper I will focus on the middle sister, Delilah. She is a werecat, but because of her mixed heritage, she does not turn into a large wild feline, but into a tabby cat. As her story progresses in the series, she becomes a Death Maiden which comes with another were form: a panther. Delilah turns into a tabby cat during the full moon or when she's stressed, and into a panther when the Autumn Lord needs her. Her already dual personality – a young woman and a house cat – becomes even more complicated when she discovers her inner panther. I will examine how Delilah's were nature is expressed in her narration, her choice of language. I will also provide examples of how other were animals (for example were seals or were pumas) are presented in Galenorn's books. I will show how the urban fantasy genre provides a platform to discuss multiple facets of such creatures.

Malgorzata Drewniok was awarded a PhD in Linguistics from Lancaster University in 2014. In her doctoral research she examined how the change of identity in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* is signalled in language. She has published on the language of *Buffy*, and presented at several international, interdisciplinary conferences. She has also written on Yasmine Galenorn's novels (2015, forthcoming), and is researching the language in the Marvel film universe. She is interested in popular culture, contemporary gothic, and the use of language on television. She currently works at Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton, and is a member of the Whedon Studies Association and the International Gothic Association.