



# Green Fairy

*Kyell Gold*

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If Sol can just survive his last year of high school, he can escape his homophobic small town and go live with his Internet boyfriend for the summer. But when he loses his starting spot on the baseball team and converts to vegetarianism — a wolf, giving up meat! — his father threatens him with a hot, muggy summer working in the peach cannery unless he gets his act together. His teammates, who suspect his sexuality already, won't make it easy for him. But even with nobody on his side but his best friend Meg (who is even less popular than he is), the teenager finds answers and solace in an unlikely place: a 1901 book about a tragic gay romance in the bohemian district of Lutèce, around the famed Moulin Rouge. Inspired by the spirit of the era, Meg and Sol share a glass of absinthe, with startling effect: Sol begins to dream that he is a cabaret dancer named Niki, offered a chance to escape his difficult life through romance — at the price of his beloved art of dance.

When the dreams seep into his waking life, Sol adds "going crazy" to his worries, and the problems of a couple that lived a hundred years ago to the ever-growing list of his own. To save both Niki and himself, Sol will have to learn the difference between reality and illusion, and discover what love and life mean to him.

Cover and interior illustrations by Rukis

Green Fairy is Kyell Gold's first non-adult book. The novel contains characters that are involved in homosexual relationships, but there are no explicit depictions of sexual acts.

## Green Fairy Details

Date : Published March 2012 by Sofawolf Press

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Author : Kyell Gold

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## From Reader Review Green Fairy for online ebook

### **BlinkBat says**

Incredible. This is definitely my favourite book from Kyell Gold. I very much liked *Waterways* for the characters and situations, but i think *Green Fairy* more vividly describes The scenarios within.

I used my free audiobook from audible to listen to this book. I don't think i could have chosen a better one in my opinion, it was fantastic. Voice-over aside (very good mind you) the story was extremely captivating and relatable in certain parts.

I will say the book has typical themes that Kyell Gold uses (Gay characters struggles/sports/fitting in) but they are used so well for the story that this book can stand out from the others and surpass them with flying colours (as well as a very unique set of themes and scenarios). Very well written, Kyell Gold. Fantastic experience.

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### **John Lewis says**

*Green Fairy*, by Kyell Gold, is a close encounter into the mind of today's youth; however, it follows a magical, toxin induced plot, leading young Sol through his own personal growth. The relationships feel real, and the dialogue stands on its own as some of Gold's best. The emotion within is strong, and halfway through I found myself wiping my face free of tears.

A fantastical view of society's youth, and a deep, emotional statement on personal acceptance, *Green Fairy* is one of Kyell Gold's best, if not one of the best within the anthropomorphic-animal fandom.

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### **Kristopher says**

This book boldly dives into new territory as we get to enjoy two stories unfold, and yet these stories are so intertwined.

There is such passion behind the text, drama behind each scene, and it all just begs for us to go further and further. It sucks you in so masterfully and tears at your heart in every direction, making you anxious to find out what happens next.

Again, non-PG, but a wonderful exploration into the line between reality and fantasy. What is real?

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### **Paul says**

I have consistently enjoyed this Author's books, but was particularly impressed with this one. Gold's been knocking out remarkably solid anthropomorphic fiction for some time now, but he managed to step it up with *Green Fairy*. It's a departure from his usual pattern, less about romance and eroticism, and more about a story that happens to deal with gay characters, and troubles that can come along with that.

The writing, as usual, is strong and fluid. It's not as elaborate as some, but there's certainly no complaints about the author's solid prose and engaging dialogue.

Gold intertwines two plot lines rather well, making for a whole that comes together beautifully. A contemporary setting with modern troubles facing a gay teenager pulls at heartstrings, while a "historical" (given the setting... kind of an alternate history?) mirror to it rides alongside, sometimes taking similar, but much more intense turns. The tale is rather grim much of the time, but it all serves a purpose to the story being told.

Overall, this is an exceptional example of anthropomorphic fiction, and certainly one of my favorites from any genre.

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### **J.F.R. Coates says**

Utterly amazing.

I was able to lose myself in this book that few other have done since J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy*. The story of Sol and Niki was amazing and emotional pretty much right from the off, and you weren't given many opportunities to recover. Just like Sol gets absorbed into Niki's story, so was I into Sol's. This book even made me miss my stop on the bus!

For me, this is easily Kyell Gold's best work.

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### **Zeta Syanthis says**

This is probably one of the best books I have ever read, and I don't know if my words can do it half the justice it's worth. Still, I have to try... Kyell himself, normally a writer of gay erotic fiction, describes it as a 'non-erotic gay non-love story,' and although that's technically correct, it doesn't even begin to touch on the mastery in this book. Swapping back and forth from a confessional letter from the days of revolutionary France and a modern day coming of age story, this book manages to mix the two with the help of a little Absinthe and a whole lot of self-reflection. There are only two things I have ever described as a masterpiece up until this point. This is now the third.

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### **Possatboi says**

Green Fairy is one of the few books that caught my eye. I lack a great deal of reading experience, but it was an extremely enjoyable read nonetheless for me because I am obsessed with foxes lately. This book contains several harsh but valuable lessons that I think everyone should have the opportunity to read. If you manage to find a copy of this somewhere, don't even hesitate -- grab it! 20 dollars is a steal compared to the sappy human romance novels you will find on today's shelves. Kyell Gold is a hero in author's guise.

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### **Elisa Rolle says**

2012 Rainbow Awards Honorable Mention (5\* from at least 1 judge)

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### **Jason says**

This is one of the most relatable (mostly) and insightful stories I've ever read. I loved the characters, they felt real, deep and diverse. The plot itself was unusual enough to make it unique and original but normal enough to add that level of connection with the reader. One might notice a pattern to the reading but I think that adds a level of suspense in a way; 'what's going to be different this time around?' I really liked the dialogue as well; it seemed entirely authentic and believable. I feel a personal connection to the plight of the main character but I think that's the point. After all; in a way, isn't Sol the younger version of us all? Whenever I finished a chapter or two, I'd think about it later on and I would get this anxious knot in my chest at the thought of what might happen next. I love a story that makes me feel something and this book delivered. The artwork by Rukis is amazing as well; I'm a fan of both her artwork and her own writing.

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### **T.S. McNally says**

First Kyell Gold book I read, can see why he has the reputation he does now.

Does a sort of parallel story thing with two arcs, one arc is a story being read by the protagonist and there are parallels between the events in the protagonist life that he draws upon.

The book's biggest blunder, of which there were few was in chapter 16 when a rat character, from the year 1901, uses the adjective "Pavlovian" which was not coined as an adjective until the 1930s according to Etymology sources. Most people wouldn't notice this though, so sorry in advance that now you do. I guess we can excuse it that the protagonist was dreaming the interaction, but the premise of the dreams is that they are supposed to be visions of real events, so... well. Just say the rat was literally ahead of his time!

I particularly like the touch at the end and how the story changes the character, not only emotionally but the physical change they go through as well.

Overall you will not be disappointed in this story.

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### **Aeturnus says**

For the most part, I didn't care too much for the main story, especially the first half. It felt too cliched. You have the loser, then you have the bullies who only purpose in the story is to make the loser's life a living Hell, and then you have the dad who expects his son to become something and his mom being the only to support him. It felt like I heard that story before. However, things do become a little more interesting the moment Sol beats the crap out of the bully.

What I loved is the story Sol reads for a class assignment, the dreams he has when he drinks some green alcohol(I'm too lazy to look in the book to see what it's called) and how he reacts when certain things in the dream end up in the real world. For me, that is what made the story hard to put down. It was also nice to read a novel by Gold that didn't have a bunch of pointless sex scenes.

## Benjamin says

I got the first signed copy of this book at Furry Weekend Atlanta. This is a heart rending story written with Mr Gold's usual flowing style and perspective changes. Despite the 5 star rating I do have one complaint. I probably won't be able to re-read this book for a long time. I saw the ending coming but it was still gut wrenching, so much so I felt like I had a bad taste in my mouth for some time thereafter. I hate to sound melodramatic but whatever remained of the story was shadowed and hard to enjoy due to the sadness.

And yet, I can't fault the author. Isn't that why I read books? To feel? To get lost in a story? And did Kyell Gold not accomplish what few authors can? Making a character so poignant and relate-able that I actually lamented their loss? Truly an accomplishment and worth 5 stars.

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## Tarl says

This is the second book by Kyell Gold that I have read. Where in the last one was a lot of older works, this is a relatively newer piece, and it shows.

Reading 'Green Fairy' after reading a few other furry fiction books was a whole new experience. Where a lot of furry writers take a storyline and drape an furry cloth over it, Gold actually uses the fact that they are anthropomorphic animals in his story. Suddenly senses other than sight are important, such as the sense of smell to which Gold uses brilliantly with Sol and his family. Biting becomes a valid method of fighting when a brawl breaks out and otters live in houses containing multiple pools. No longer is the fact that the characters are furry just simply a window dressing, but rather, they are an important factor within the story, another tool for Gold to use in his writing.

The characters shifts throughout this book took a bit to get used to at first. I actually didn't expect it, and when it first happened, much like Sol, I was a tad bit confused. But as the story continued onward, and as I got used to it, it added an interesting element to the storyline, and another dimension to the characters within. Suddenly, you're getting two different viewpoints of the same series of events, and a sort of mirror version in Sol's real life world. It all ends up blending in a sort of magical manner which I found both unique and wonderful.

There were some elements that took me out of the story however. One of them is the use of animals such as mice and squirrels as rodent pests in a world of anthropomorphic characters. Gold has mentioned before that in his worlds, there are those species that have evolved, and those that have not. This allows for things like eating a steak, or in this case, mice being pests where rats have evolved into a type of people. Though I will admit that this method works, the mice/rat dynamic actually caught me off guard, with both species being so close together. If Gold had perhaps left out the reference to mice, I would not have stumbled over it in the story.

Carcy was another stumbling block of the story for me. The foreshadowing of what would later happen was perhaps a bit too blatant. From the moment he starts texting Sol in the story, there is a sense of what will happen later. It is no surprise he is who he is when the confrontation finally occurs. (though this could just be my suspicious nature) I was also surprised that the wolves did not pick up his scent in their house, as it would be a very alien scent among many familiar ones. With all the concentration put towards the wolves and how their world relates to smells, you would think that they would notice it fairly quickly.

One last thing that struck me is more a personal experience thing and not so much a critique. Now, let me begin by saying this. I am straight, and I am Canadian. Within this story, the amount of issues that face Sol in the twelfth grade strike me as being over the top and borderline horrific. The fact that a lot of the behavior that occurred happened at school, and was harsh and cruel, strikes me as unrealistic. That said, as mentioned above, I am Canadian, and straight. This means that I come from a country that is far more forward thinking when it comes to the subject matter of same-sex couples, and it also means that I have never experienced this kind of behavior because I myself am straight and thus wouldn't come up against it. That is not to say it doesn't happen, nor does it detract from the horror of what occurs. In fact, it makes what happens in the story in regards to Sol's sexuality that much more brutal/cruel/horrific. Hence, I am not pointing out this as a flaw, but rather, something I wasn't able to fully relate to, though I am more than sure others will. (which will obviously help in them relate to Sol, and build a good reader/character relationship)

'Green Fairy' was an entertaining read, and one that I enjoyed from start to finish. Gold's writing has come a ways since his older works, and his skill with language has only improved. His description of the Moulin Rouge is easily my favorite part of the entire book. It really made me feel as if I was there, and made me long for Niki's sections rather than Sol's boring life at the beginning of the story. (which changed later on as Sol's personal life became more interesting) Gold did a great job bringing together the modern and the historic, and the story flows from one scene to the next with next to no issue. Overall I have to say I will most likely read it again later on.

One last thing. The talented art of Rukis really helped to enhance this tale. All the pieces contained in 'Green Fairy' are wonderful and a pleasure to look upon. Choosing them to do the art was a wise choice.

So if you are into anthropomorphic work, pick this story up. Even if you aren't, this story is really well done and I would easily recommend it to non-furry readers as well.

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## **R. says**

This is Kyell's best book by far.

Do be forewarned that, while there is romantic content, there's no out-and-out sex in this book, so if that's why you're reading Kyell, go elsewhere.

Green Fairy is the story of Sol, a disillusioned wolf who drinks absinthe and begins to realize that his drug-induced hallucinations parallel his life far more closely than he initially expected. The story is told from three perspectives: the wolf's, the very 1984-ish meta-book which the wolf is reading, and the main character of that meta-book. All three are written in different fonts, so Gold manages to avoid the typical pitfall of multiple-narrator stories: namely, it is always clear by looking at the page who is speaking.

To say much more about the actual plot ventures into heavy spoilers, so here's what's up:

The gothic stoner otter, Meg (a phrase I will likely never write again) is a solid female character in a genre nearly devoid of such. She's a dour, salty anarchist who manages to be the best character in the book. The prose is sharp. Each narrator comes with a unique style, and it's easily some of Gold's best writing. The story is kinda awesome. This is the first story that I've read by Gold which has some honestly grimdark moments, and it's better for it. The ending is a bit sappy, but the actual climax of the story...awesome.

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## **Rengare Wolfe says**

Gold does a fantastic job portraying very realistic characters throughout this book. Notably, very realistic furry characters. Mannerisms and ticks continued to hold steadfast to, "this is an anthropomorphic animal story" which I find surprisingly difficult to accomplish. His prose is set up well to meet this end while remaining easy to read.

The being told from the perspective of a high-school senior student. This also means that it started out a bit dull. Common and familiar themes from High School head up the story, but grow and change in interesting ways. Character depth presented itself in satisfying ways throughout, and the characters drove the plot well.

The book itself was not too long, and not too short. Overall, this was a great book that I would recommend anyone to read, just so long as they plan to really stick with it and allow the story to set itself up.

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