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## A Companion to Wolves (Iskryne)

By Elizabeth Bear, Sarah Monette

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*A Companion to Wolves* is the story of a young nobleman, Isolfr, who is chosen to become a *wolfcarl* -- a warrior who is bonded to a fighting wolf. Isolfr is deeply drawn to the wolves, and though as his father's heir he can refuse the call, he chooses to go.

The people of this wintry land depend on the wolfcarls to protect them from the threat of trolls and wyverns, though the supernatural creatures have not come in force for many years. Men are growing too confident. The wolfhealls are small, and the lords give them less respect than in former years. But the winter of Isolfr's bonding, the trolls come down from the north in far greater numbers than before, and the holding's complaisance gives way to terror in the dark.

Isolfr, now bonded to a queen wolf, Viradechtis, must learn where his honor lies, and discover the lengths to which he will go when it, and love for his wolf, drive him.

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## **A Companion to Wolves (Iskryne) By Elizabeth Bear, Sarah Monette Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

*Starred Review.* Rising fantasy stars Monette (*Mélusine*) and Bear (*Whiskey & Water*) subvert the telepathic animal companion subgenre so thoroughly that it may never be the same. The inhabitants of a cold and perilous world grounded in Norse/Germanic mythology depend upon the brutally violent wolfcarls, men who bond telepathically with huge fighting trellwolves, to protect them from monstrous trolls and wyverns from further north. When the northern threat suddenly intensifies, Isolfr, a young wolfcarl, and his wolf-sister, Viradechtis, a Queen wolf destined to rule her own pack, are thrust into key roles in their civilization's desperate fight to survive. The meticulously crafted setting and powerful, often moving rendition of characters and relationships—human and nonhuman alike—result in a brutal and beautiful novel about the meaning of honor. Never blushing as they consider the ultimate sociological, sexual and moral underpinnings of a what-if often treated as coy wish-fulfillment fantasy, the authors have boldly created a fascinating world that begs further exploration. (*Oct.*)

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From [Booklist](#)

In a culture in which villages are protected by men bonded to giant telepathic wolves that constitute the key line of defense against trolls, who come from the north and leave devastation in their wake, those wolf-brethren are respected—and used as bogeys to scare misbehaving children. Njall, a jarl's son and heir, is chosen to fill his family's duty to the wolfheall. He goes, despite his father's disapproval, because the wolfheall is the only thing standing between his people and death. Chosen by a trellwolf bitch, he enters into the strange, brutal, ultimately fascinating world of the wolf-brethren. Monette and Bear pull no punches, neither with violence or sex. The world they depict is fraught with a sense of wonder rare even in fantasy, also with the traumatic aura of a place where nearly every custom is foreign. They have taken one of the most escapist of fantasy subgenres, in which humans and animals meld, and turned it into something powerful and surprisingly deeply human; certainly, both human and wolf politics play magnificently well. Schroeder, Regina

Review

"Ancient grudges and ruthless schemes are simply business as usual to the Faerie court in Bear's complex and involving contemporary fantasy. Campbell-winner Bear (*Worldwired*) overturns the usual vision of Faerie, revealing the compelling beauty and darkness only glimpsed in old ballads and stories like 'Tam Lin'."--*Publishers Weekly* on *Blood and Iron* by Elizabeth Bear

"Set in the wondrous city of Melusine, Monette's extraordinary first fantasy novel focuses on two captivating characters from two very different worlds. Monette is a highly original writer with her own unique voice."--*Publisher's Weekly* starred review of *Melusine* by Sarah Monette

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Catherine Scott:**

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take

a go walking, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or read a book allowed A Companion to Wolves (Iskryne)? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have various other opinion?

**Theresa Adams:**

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**Margarito Rone:**

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**Dora Champagne:**

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