

A close-up of a werewolf's face with glowing yellow eyes and sharp teeth, set against a dark blue background with a full moon and silhouettes of birds on branches.

NOT NEAR NORMAL  
THE PARANORMAL

# WEREWOLVES

## AND OTHER SHAPE-SHIFTERS

by Ruth Owen

**[Intentionally Left Blank]**

NOT NEAR NORMAL  
THE PARANORMAL

# WEREWOLVES

## AND OTHER SHAPE-SHIFTERS



by Ruth Owen

Consultant: Troy Taylor  
President of the American Ghost Society

BEARPORT  
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

## Credits

Cover and Title Page, © Zacarias Pereira da Mata/Shutterstock, cynoclub/Shutterstock, and © Kim Jones; 4–5, © Peter Hansen/Shutterstock and © AF archive/Alamy; 6, © mlorenz/Shutterstock; 6–7, © AF archive/Alamy; 8–9, © Kamira/Shutterstock and © Kim Jones; 11, © Kim Jones; 12, © thawats butterfly/Shutterstock; 13, © Jaroslaw Grudzinski/Shutterstock; 14, © carroteater/Shutterstock and Sibrikov Valery/Shutterstock; 14–15, © Kim Jones; 16–17, © Gerard Lacz Images/Superstock; 18–19, © Piyathap/Shutterstock and Bob Orsillo/Shutterstock; 21, © Telemack/istockphoto; 22–23, © Giancarlo Gagliardi/Shutterstock and © Krzysztof Wikto/Shutterstock; 24, © Tippett Studio; 25, © Holly Kuchera/Shutterstock and © AF archive/Alamy; 27, © Rex Features; 28L, © greglith/Shutterstock; 28R, © outdoorsman/Shutterstock; 29TL, © Martin B. Withers/FLPA; 29TR, © AF archive/Alamy; 29BL, © Stanislav Duben/Shutterstock; 29BR, © sergey23/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Emma Randall

Editor: Mark J. Sachner

Photo Researcher: Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd

### *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Owen, Ruth, 1967–

Werewolves and other shape-shifters / by Ruth Owen.

p. cm. — (Not near normal: the paranormal )

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-61772-695-8 (library binding) — ISBN 1-61772-695-8 (library binding)

1. Werewolves. 2. Shapeshifting. I. Title.

GR830.W4094 2013

398.24'54—dc23

2012038864

Copyright © 2013 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

# Contents

The Creature at the Window .....	4
Half Human, Half Beast .....	6
Becoming a Werewolf .....	8
Transformation.....	10
The Signs of a Werewolf .....	12
Can a Werewolf Be Killed? .....	14
The Beast of Gévaudan.....	16
The Terrifying Taw .....	18
The Werewolf of Bedburg .....	20
Shape-shifters .....	22
The <i>Twilight</i> Werewolves .....	24
Fact or Fiction?.....	26
Werewolves and Other Shape-shifters Around the World.....	28
Glossary .....	30
Bibliography.....	31
Read More.....	31
Learn More Online .....	31
Index .....	32
About the Author .....	32

# The Creature at the Window

Scratch. Scratch. Scratch. Delburt Gregg woke up.

It was a hot, stormy night in Greggton, Texas. Before going to sleep, Delburt had moved her bed beside a window, hoping to catch a breeze. Now, just inches from her, something was scratching at the screen.

Suddenly, a flash of lightning lit up the window. Looking in at Delburt was a huge, hairy, wolflike face with sharp **fangs** and glowing eyes. In an instant, the creature turned and ran into some bushes.

Terrified, Delburt anxiously watched from her window. Would the beast return? Instead of a wolflike creature emerging from the bushes, however, Delburt saw a very tall man suddenly appear and run out of sight.

What did Delburt Gregg see that hot summer night in July 1958? A wolf? A man? Or something not near normal—a **werewolf**!



## The Man Wolf

The word *werewolf* comes from two words in **Old English**: *wer*, which means “man,” and *wulf*, which means “wolf.”



# Half Human, Half Beast

Delburt Gregg was not the first person in history to say she had come face to face with a werewolf. Stories of terrifying creatures that are half human and half wolf have been told for thousands of years.

According to **legend**, a werewolf is a person that turns into a **savage**, bloodthirsty beast at night. A werewolf may run on two or four legs, and is much faster than an actual wolf. The creature uses its superhuman strength, fangs, and claws to brutally attack people and animals. Then it feeds on their flesh.

In the morning, the hairy beast is said to change back into its human form. Then it returns to living an ordinary human life.



## Werewolf or Real Wolf?

In some legends, werewolves are said to look exactly like actual wolves. There is one important difference, though. These evil creatures can be many times larger than real wolves. In fact, they can be the size of horses!



# Index

- Beast of Gévaudan 16–17  
Bedburg, Germany 20  
Black, Jacob 24–25  
boudas 29  
böxenvolves 28  
Chastel, Jean 16  
claws 6, 11  
El lobizón 29  
fangs 4, 6, 11, 18  
full moons 8, 10  
Gévaudan, France 16  
Gomez, Danny and Larry 27  
Gregg, Delburt 4, 6  
Greggton, Texas 4  
hamramms 29  
hypertrichosis 26–27  
Jé-rouge 28  
killing a werewolf 14–15, 18–19, 20  
kitsunes 29  
Lautner, Taylor 25  
Myanmar 18  
shape-shifters 22–23, 24, 28–29  
signs of a werewolf 12–13  
silver bullets 14  
silver knives 14  
skinwalkers 22  
Stumpf, Peter 20  
taws 18–19  
transformations 8–9, 10–11, 14–15, 18–19, 20, 22, 28–29  
*Twilight* movies 24–25  
Werewolf of Bedburg 20  
Young, Harold 18–19
- 

## About the Author

Ruth Owen has been developing, editing, and writing children's books for more than ten years. She lives in Cornwall, England, just minutes from the ocean. Ruth loves gardening and caring for her family of llamas.

**[Intentionally Left Blank]**

NOT NEAR NORMAL  
THE PARANORMAL

# WEREWOLVES

## AND OTHER SHAPE-SHIFTERS

On a stormy night in 1958, Delburt Gregg was awakened by a scratching sound at her window. As she peered outside, lightning flashed across the sky and lit up a huge wolflike face with sharp fangs and glowing eyes. The frightening creature then darted into the bushes. Had Delburt seen a man or a wolf? Or had she seen something not near normal—a werewolf?

For hundreds of years, legends have been told of people who have transformed into werewolves and other killer beasts. If stories about these shape-shifters are just fiction, why have so many people claimed to have seen these savage creatures? Look inside to investigate the truth behind the terrifying tales.

**ALIENS**  
AND OTHER VISITORS

**GHOSTS**  
AND OTHER SPIRITS OF THE DEAD

**HALF-HUMAN MONSTERS**  
AND OTHER FIENDS

**VAMPIRES**  
AND OTHER BLOODSUCKERS

**WEREWOLVES**  
AND OTHER SHAPE-SHIFTERS

**ZOMBIES**  
AND OTHER WALKING DEAD

**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

[www.bearportpublishing.com](http://www.bearportpublishing.com)

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-695-8



9 781617 726958

9 0000