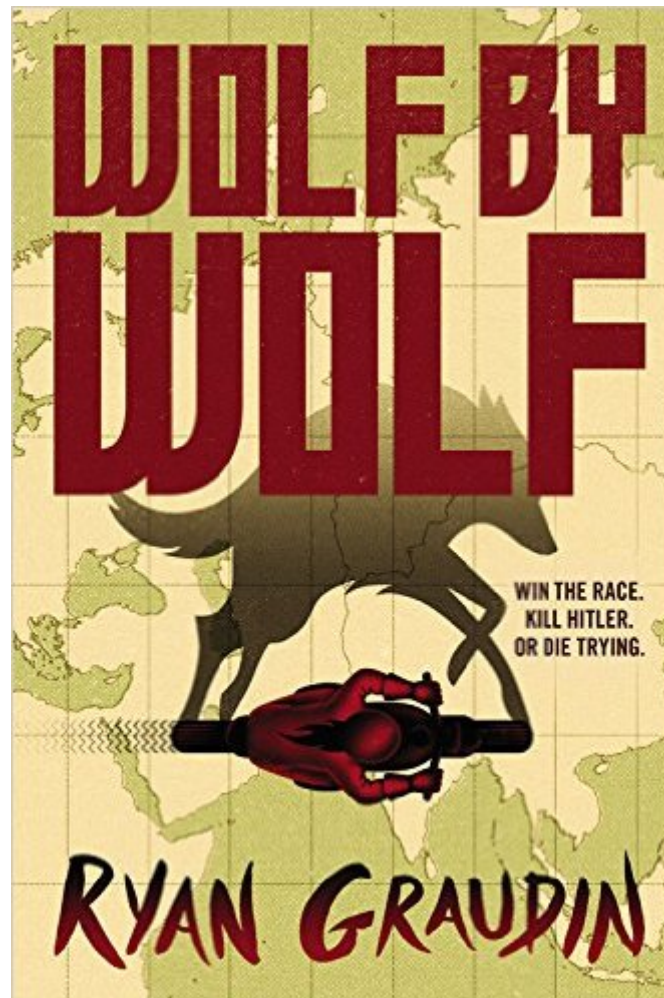


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Wolf By Wolf



Synopsis

Her story begins on a train. The year is 1956, and the Axis powers of the Third Reich and Imperial Japan rule. To commemorate their Great Victory, they host the Axis Tour: an annual motorcycle race across their conjoined continents. The prize? An audience with the highly reclusive Adolf Hitler at the Victor's ball in Tokyo. Yael, a former death camp prisoner, has witnessed too much suffering, and the five wolves tattooed on her arm are a constant reminder of the loved ones she lost. The resistance has given Yael one goal: Win the race and kill Hitler. A survivor of painful human experimentation, Yael has the power to skinshift and must complete her mission by impersonating last year's only female racer, Adele Wolfe. This deception becomes more difficult when Felix, Adele's twin brother, and Luka, her former love interest, enter the race and watch Yael's every move. But as Yael grows closer to the other competitors, can she be as ruthless as she needs to be to avoid discovery and stay true to her mission? From the author of *The Walled City* comes a fast-paced and innovative novel that will leave you breathless.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Original Post: [Wolf by Wolf \(Wolf by Wolf 1\) at FLYLÄ,Ä“F Book Reviews \(reviews.flylef.com\)](#) History is revived to magnificent effects in this moving and haunting novel. Ryan GraudinÄ“Ä Ä™s *Wolf by Wolf* shines a light on one of the darkest, most terrifying chapters in our past and spins a remarkable tale of an alternate history. The what-ifÄ“Ä Ä™s set in motion by one courageous girlÄ“Ä Ä™ Yael AdeleÄ“Ä Ä™ had me racing along, and rooting for her to change history as we know

it: Win the Axis Tour. Assassinate Hitler. Or Die Trying. Graudin's writing is very lyrical. There is a musicality to her prose that is quite rhythmic—like a song, like a chant. The playful effects of font sizes—faint, fainter, faintest—is so successful in enhancing the story. I know most people won't look twice at this, but as a designer I enjoy and appreciate the extra attention to these details. The characters are written so well. They possess qualities that I genuinely thrive on: strength through struggle, flawed not foolish, and an overall *œmoreness*. Yael is an impersonator, resistance conspirator, black-market scoundrel—a secret weapon. You are special. You are going to change things. My fondness for Yael grows with every flashback that the author takes me on, and I had this aching need to hug her. She is an incredible story of fortitude, identity, and destiny. As Yael sets her eyes on winning the Axis Tour, twenty contestants stand in her path. My favorites among them are Luka, an ally and romantic interest who is as charismatic as he is deadly; Felix, her brother and wild card; and Katsu, who will stop at nothing to win the coveted and illusive Axis Tour Double Cross. These characters have an overall *œmoreness* that was never boring. I was questioning their motives and loyalty until the end. I followed along with them on a mad dash from Germainia to Tokyo, covering 39,731,284 kilometers (okay, it was actually 20,780—still). The bit of sabotaging between the competitors breaks the monotony of the race, but each incident resolved itself fairly quickly. Personally, I'm really not fond of dirt-bike racing, so I ended up skimming those parts; however, I did gain a greater appreciation for it. Thank you Mr. David (supportive husband) for taking Ms. Graudin off road on a surprise dirt-bike date. I'm sure it is because of this experience that I was able to feel the bumps and bruises, aches and soreness, as Yael lead me to an exciting climax that unraveled at lightning speed, leaving me with a burning need for the sequel—Blood for Blood. Is November here yet? No. Oh Scheisse!

Let me start by saying this book is awesome. I love the premise, love the female main character, and because the backstory of *Wolf by Wolf* includes an intercontinental motorcycle race, it truly speeds along to the end. As a YA alternative history novel with a sci-fi departure from reality, it asks the reader to suspend their disbelief, and trust me, the way the author presents it, it's not hard to do. In the Author's Note she tries to examine the "What if?" facet of life with this book. What if Hitler and Emperor Hirohito had won the war? What if those two dictators took over the Eurasian continent and northern Africa? And what if the egregious medical experiments performed in the concentration camps left a young girl with the power to "skinshift" and change her appearance at will? That is the basis of *Wolf by Wolf*. After Yael, a young Jewish survivor of the medical experiments escapes a

death camp she joins the resistance. Years later, her ability to skinshift gives the resistance a perfect opportunity to bring down the Nazi Regime. She must impersonate Adele Wolfe, the only female to win the annual Axis Tour, a grueling motorcycle race from Berlin to Tokyo, in the upcoming competition. Hitler will be in Tokyo for the finish and last year he honored Adele Wolfe during the Emperor's Ball. If she wins this race, Yael will have a chance to be close enough to Hitler to change history. Most of the book centers on the race with flashbacks to Yael's childhood and her years with the Resistance. The reader learns the personal meaning behind the five wolf tattoos on her arm. She is an intense, focused young woman with one goal: revenge. She is able to think on her feet, can handle any gun, carries a knife in her boot and is a trained fighter. Her skinshifting is a powerful tool. To sum up, the girl is badass. The race is not as straightforward as Yael assumed. Many of the racers play dirty and a huge monkey wrench is tossed into the story when two of the racers are close to the real Adele Wolfe. There is a lot of tension and some huge twists in the story. During the heart pounding racing scenes I actually felt myself grow tenser as the racers sped closer to the finish line. Every setback, every close call is nerve-racking. But despite moments of self-doubt, Yael's determination is unflinching and she is a fighter, a most powerful character. The author's writing style is expressive especially when conveying Yael's inner thoughts. The wolf tattoos have significant meaning to Yael and she counts them, wolf by wolf, in her moments of despair, when she needs reason to continue her mission. So many elements of this story are wonderful choices: using a victim of Nazi medical experimentation as a weapon against the Nazis is my favorite. The end of the book could almost, but not quite, make it a standalone with some unanswered questions for the reader to draw their own conclusion. But, no, this is the first of two books and I am thrilled to say that I will pre-order the next one as soon as I can and will breathlessly wait for it. Highly recommended. Highly.

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