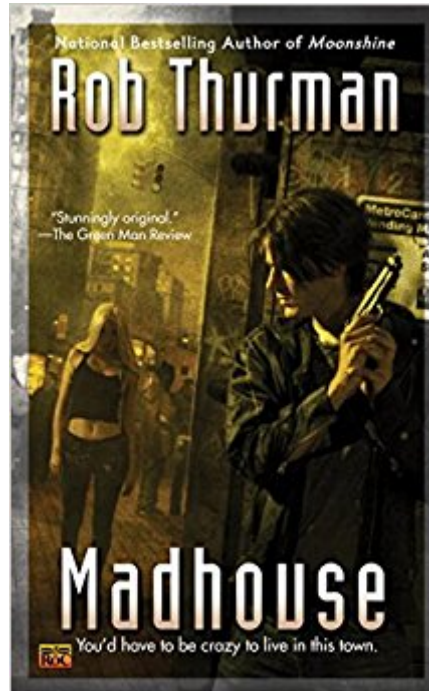


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# Madhouse



## Synopsis

Half-human Cal Leandros and his brother Niko aren't exactly prospering with their preternatural detective agency. Who could have guessed that business could dry up in New York City, where vampires, trolls, and other creepy crawlies are all over the place if you know where to look. But now there's a new arrival in the Big Apple. A malevolent evil with ancient powers is picking off humans like sheep, dead-set on making history with an orgy of blood and murder. And for Cal and Niko, this is one paycheck they're going to have to earn. If they live long enough to collect it!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A roaring rollercoaster of a read...[it'll] take your breath away." "Cal's a sarcastic, sardonic narrator who pulls the reader into his world, both the good and the bad." "The plot is complex enough to please mystery fans, with supernatural elements that put this in the company of Jim Butcher and Charlaine Harris."

Rob, short for Robyn (yes, he is really a she) Thurman lives in Indiana, land of rolling hills and cows, deer, and wild turkeys. Many, many turkeys. She is also the author of the Cal Leandros Series: Nightlife, Moonshine, Madhouse, and Deathwish; has a story in the anthology Wolfsbane and Mistletoe; and is the author of Trick of the Light, the first book in the Trickster series. Besides wild, ravenous turkeys, she has a dog (if you don't have a dog, how do you live?) one

hundred pounds of Siberian husky. He looks like a wolf, has paws the size of a person's hand, ice blue eyes, teeth out of a Godzilla movies, and the ferocious habit of hiding under the kitchen table and peeing on himself when strangers come by. Fortunately, she has another dog that is a little more invested in keeping the food source alive. By the way, the dogs were adopted from shelters. They were fully grown, already housetrained, and grateful as hell. Think about it next time you're looking for a Rover or Fluffy. For updates, teasers, deleted scenes, and various other extras, visit Rob Thurman's website and her LiveJournal.

I rated books 1 & 2 and noted that I was in search of a book series that was like the tv show Supernatural. After reading the 2nd & 3rd books, I have to say one book is like the equivalent of one episode of Supernatural. It's what I was looking for, and I'm enjoying the series. The only dislikes I can say are (A) a 45ish minute tv episode makes for a drawn out read at times...so it took me quite awhile to finish each book even though I'm the type that can finish a book in one day when I'm THAT hooked; and (B) I don't like having to reread about the characters' backgrounds each book. Maybe that's me being selfish? I can see why the author wants anyone to be able to pick up any book in the series and know what the heck is going on for the most part, but as a person that loves series and getting attached to characters, I catch myself thinking "WHY are you reading this if you haven't started from the beginning?" This isn't an anthology series. It's not like American Horror Story haha....anyway, overall- I'm enjoying the reads!

All of these books follow a similar pattern in that they start you off with some action to grab your attention and then a bit of a breather to fill you in on details and then a build to a finish that usually has a few twists that you did not expect. Sounds simple, right? If it was every writer would be this good and they are not, these books are great stories and always allow you to get involved in the characters. highly recommend but understand these are a bit "dark" for lack of a better word and violent, which bothers me none at all. Start with Book1 and read them all, you will find it a great investment of your literary/entertainment funds.

Madhouse is book three of the Cal Leandros series. In this book Cal and Niko face a new threat in New York City, Sawney Beane come back to life. In this manifestation Beane is a redcap who killed hundreds of people with a band of followers in Scotland before being hunted down by an army and burned at the stake. His ashes were on display at the MET, for a horror exhibit which featured Jack the Ripper and others. Somehow his body way resurrected and he escaped to once again prey on

travelers. Only for him NYC is great because everyone is a "traveler" and so everyone is fair game for his next meal. On top of hunting down the insane mass murderer the brother's friend Robin Goodfellow is being hunted by assassins and is barely staying ahead of them. Robin won't tell them whose behind it. Cal suffers nasty side effects from "traveling" (his version of teleporting) in order to save Robin. The brothers make an alliance with a Central Park boggle and some werewolves to hunt Sawney. Several attempts fail to inflict damage on Sawney, and leave Cal with a huge hole in his chest from being bitten. Enter the werewolf Delilah. I wasn't such a fan of the "Cal getting laid" subplot, but it was there. I was much more interested in who was trying to kill Robin. In the end the four main characters (Cal, Niko, Rob, and Promise) come up with one final plan to try. It involves explosive bullets, Cal as the bait, and a flamethrower. Cal finally overcomes his inability to travel and is able to fight Sawney in an almost even fight. The resolution of Robin's story line wasn't as exciting as it could have been, but the person behind it all made sense. Lots of bodies and body parts hanging around at Sawney's hideout. A good solid book with a fast moving if gruesome plot. Not recommended for those who don't like a bit of horror and a lot of violence.

I really enjoyed the first two books of this series. Thankfully the author keeps the quality, and the adrenaline, high for this third installment. While I felt Moonshine wasn't quite as good as Nightlife (having a little too much description), Madhouse exceeded them both with excellent pacing, slick dialog and good old-fashioned action. An exhibit on Famous Serial Killers at the museum takes on "new life" when one of the residents is resurrected. Sawney Beane supposedly killed and ate some 1000 people - actually more like 6 or 700 according to Robin Goodfellow. Cal and Niko are on his trail, but he's recruiting help among the revenants. Only, the first couple times they take him on they barely escape with their lives. To make matters worse, someone is trying to kill Robin and they can't even begin to narrow down his list of enemies. Despite the dire situation, Thurman injects some humor and humanity into the story to balance all the action and bloodletting. Cal has decided he's ready to lose his virginity, and Robin can hardly wait to help him. Though this does add some great laugh out loud moments (like when Robin suggests a tryst with a water nymph & Cal declares he can't get it up in 50 degree water!!) there is a serious side that gives readers more insight into Cal's fears about his heritage. He's afraid to father children that could turn out to be monsters (as he sees himself), which is part of why he's afraid to have a relationship with George. Thurman never lets readers forget how dangerous Cal's world is, or how fragile his self-image. This really helps readers connect with Cal - I want him to succeed, I want him to find love, I want him to win. I agree with another reviewer that it was nice to see Cal making some decisions on his own, in contrast to Niko's

wishes. Such as practicing his new ability to make gates, and making tough choices about George. Niko is very protective of Cal, and their strong relationship is the foundation of the series. However, Cal can't live in Niko's shadow indefinitely. As indicated in the last book, the Auphe have returned with a vengeance, and Cal needs to step up to the challenge as the one who may have to protect his brother for a change. Cal grows a lot in this book, and it was a welcome development. One thing I didn't like - the huge cliffhanger ending in the last sentence! But just as intended, I am nearly salivating for *Deathwish* (Cal Leandros, Book 4). Overall, this series is very strong and I highly recommend it. The writing is so well done, I hope the author considers doing another series - either based in the world, or another. Yes, that good.

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