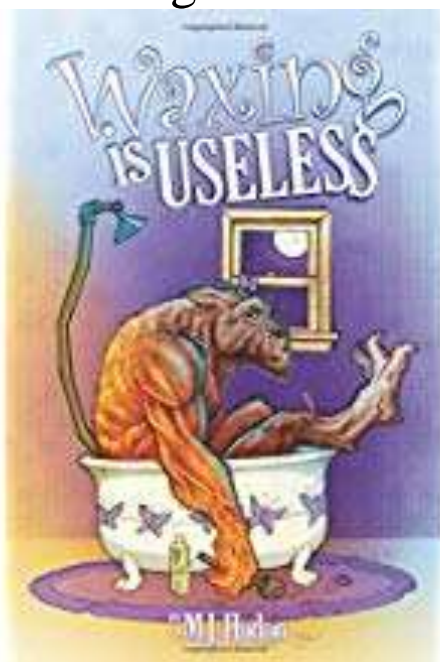


## Waxing Is Useless



By M.J. Hudon

Reviewed by James B. Parry

Don't judge this book by its cover (or by its playful title.) It is quite a serious (with some humor) fantasy, horror, thriller, murder mystery about a seemingly ordinary family. Turns out, Mom (Miranda) has a weird recessive gene that causes her to turn into a wolf whenever stressed. Events gradually reveal this to her, and later to her family, as her lupus and problems at work worsen, not to mention the stress caused by her two teenage children.

This is a different kind of werewolf book. These wolf/humans are here to HELP humankind. (Not to worry: There is a hideous - and odoriferous - monster lurking at all times in the background.) Apparently, many people have this hidden wolf gene. These "werewolves" then become "Guardians" protecting us normal human beings. Miranda must decide if she wants to become a Guardian (which would greatly lessen her lupus symptoms) or stick with her regular life.

There are many surprises in this book including a few murders, a kidnapping, and a sort of exorcism. Exciting and well written. It was hard to put it down. Normally, I read a few pages of a book in bed each night before the book puts me to sleep, but *Waxing Is Useless* kept me reading for hours – until my wife would yell at me to turn out the light.

Buy a copy, and you, too, will be glued to this book.