

# Update on Werewolves (2012)

## By Margaret Atwood (Canada)

In the old days, all werewolves were male.  
They burst through their bluejean clothing  
as well as their own split skins,  
exposed themselves in parks,  
howled at the moonshine.  
Those things frat<sup>1</sup> boys do.

Went too far with the pigtail yanking--  
growled down into the pink and wriggling  
females, who cried Wee wee  
wee all the way to the bone<sup>2</sup>.  
Heck, it was only flirting,  
plus a canid<sup>3</sup> sense of fun:  
See Jane run!

But now it's different.  
Now it's a global threat.  
Long-legged women sprint through ravines  
in furry warmups, a pack of kinky  
models in sado<sup>4</sup> French Vogue<sup>5</sup> getups

and airbrushed short-term memories,  
bent on no-penalties rampage.

Look at their red-rimmed paws!  
Look at their gnashing eyeballs!  
Look at the backlit gauze<sup>6</sup>  
of their full-moon subversive haloes!  
Hairy all over, this belle dame<sup>7</sup>,  
and it's not a sweater.

O freedom, freedom and power!



Margaret Atwood  
born 1939

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<sup>1</sup> short for a college fraternity

<sup>2</sup> an allusion to the child's nursery rhyme:

This little piggy went to the market,  
This little piggy stayed home,  
This little piggy had roast beef,  
This little piggy had none,  
And this little piggy cried wee wee wee all the way home.

<sup>3</sup> a mammal of the dog family

<sup>4</sup> a London fashion house dealing in high-end clothing

<sup>5</sup> a fashion magazine

<sup>6</sup> a thin translucent fabric of silk, linen, or cotton

<sup>7</sup> French: beautiful lady

they sing as they lope<sup>8</sup> over bridges,  
bums<sup>9</sup> to the wind, ripping out throats  
on footpaths, pissing off brokers.

Tomorrow they'll be back  
in their middle-management black  
and Jimmy Choos<sup>10</sup>  
with hours they can't account for  
and first dates' blood on the stairs.  
They'll make some calls: Goodbye.  
It isn't you. I can't say why.  
They'll dream of sprouting tails  
at sales meetings,  
right in the audiovisuals.  
They'll have addictive hangovers  
and ruined nails.



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<sup>8</sup> run or move with a long bounding stride

<sup>9</sup> (informal) rear ends

<sup>10</sup> Jimmy Choo: a Malaysian Chinese fashion designer, best known for his high-end women's shoe designs