

# Werewolf The Apocalypse Core Rulebook



**Werewolf: The Apocalypse Core Rulebook** is a cornerstone of the World of Darkness role-playing game universe, providing players and storytellers with a rich tapestry of lore, mechanics, and thematic elements to explore. This seminal work immerses players in a world where nature is under siege, and the balance between humanity and the natural world has been disrupted. As players step into the shoes of the Garou, the shapeshifting werewolves, they engage in a struggle not only for survival but also for the reclamation of the Earth from the exploitative forces of civilization.

## Overview of Werewolf: The Apocalypse

### Setting and Themes

Werewolf: The Apocalypse is set in a modern-day Earth that is ravaged by pollution, industrialization, and rampant consumerism. The game's themes revolve around environmentalism, spirituality, and the conflict between nature and technology. The Garou are depicted as the protectors of Gaia, the Earth Mother, and they seek to fight against the Wyrms, a primal force of destruction that manifests through corruption, greed, and decay.

### Core Concepts

At its heart, Werewolf: The Apocalypse revolves around several core concepts that define gameplay:

- The Garou: The werewolves who are the protagonists. They can shift between human, wolf, and hybrid forms.
- The Wyrms: The embodiment of chaos and destruction. It represents the negative aspects of humanity's influence on nature.
- The Weaver: The force of order and structure, representing civilization and the constraints that come with it.
- The Umbra: A spiritual realm that exists parallel to the physical world, rich with supernatural entities and energies.

## Character Creation

### Choosing a Breed

Players begin character creation by selecting a breed, which defines the character's physical traits and cultural background. The three main breeds are:

- Homid: Born human, these Garou often have stronger ties to human culture but may struggle with their werewolf identity.
- Lupus: Born as wolves, they possess an innate connection to nature but may find human society alien and confusing.
- Metis: The offspring of two Garou, Metis often face social stigma due to their mixed heritage but are powerful shapeshifters.

### Selecting a Tribe

Next, players choose a tribe, each representing different philosophies and approaches to the Garou's struggle. Some prominent tribes include:

- Get of Fenris: Known for their warrior culture and ferocity.
- Fianna: Celebrators of life, music, and storytelling, they often embrace a more bohemian lifestyle.
- Black Furies: Fierce protectors of women and children, they often focus on social justice and empowerment.

### Picking a Auspice

The auspice determines a character's role within the Garou society, influencing their temperament and abilities. The five auspices are:

- Ragabash: The trickster, often using cunning and wit to navigate challenges.
- Theurge: The spiritualist, connected deeply to the Umbra and the spirits.
- Philodox: The judge and mediator, balancing the needs of the tribe and the pack.
- Galliard: The bard and storyteller, keeping the culture and history of the Garou alive.
- Ahroun: The warrior, embodying the Garou's martial spirit and dedication to battle.

## Game Mechanics

### Dice Pool System

Werewolf: The Apocalypse utilizes a dice pool system to resolve actions. Players roll a number of ten-sided dice (d10) based on their character's abilities and traits. Successes are determined by rolling a number equal to or higher than a target number, typically six. The more successes, the greater the outcome.

### Attributes and Abilities

Characters are defined by three primary attributes:

1. Physical: Strength, Dexterity, Stamina
2. Social: Charisma, Manipulation, Appearance
3. Mental: Perception, Intelligence, Wits

Abilities are divided into Talents, Skills, and Knowledges, allowing for a wide range of character specializations.

## Gifts and Rites

Garou possess supernatural abilities called Gifts, which are unique to their tribe and can provide various advantages in and out of combat. Rites are ceremonial practices that invoke spiritual powers, often used to enhance a pack's strength or to commune with spirits.

## The World of Darkness

### Interconnectivity with Other Games

Werewolf: The Apocalypse is part of the broader World of Darkness universe, which includes other role-playing games such as Vampire: The Masquerade and Mage: The Ascension. This interconnectedness allows for crossover storytelling and character interactions, enriching the narrative experience.

### The Role of the Storyteller

The Storyteller is a crucial figure in the game, guiding the narrative, controlling non-player characters (NPCs), and presenting challenges for the players. They create a dynamic world that responds to players' choices, shaping the story's direction based on the actions of the Garou.

### Playing the Game

### Sessions and Campaigns

Werewolf: The Apocalypse can be played in one-off sessions or long-term campaigns. The flexibility in storytelling allows for both episodic adventures and overarching narratives that can span weeks, months, or even years.

### Themes of Conflict

Conflict is a central theme in the game, both in terms of external struggles against the Wyrms and internal conflicts within the Garou themselves. Players must navigate their characters' loyalties, moral dilemmas, and the consequences of their actions in a world rife with environmental and social challenges.

### Emphasis on Role-Playing

Role-playing is a critical component of the game. Players are encouraged to immerse themselves in their characters, exploring their motivations, fears, and relationships. This depth of character development often leads to rich storytelling and memorable moments.

### Conclusion

The Werewolf: The Apocalypse Core Rulebook is more than just a set of rules; it is a gateway into a profound exploration of themes that resonate with contemporary issues. From environmental activism to the struggle against social injustice, the game encourages players to reflect on their place in the world. Through the eyes of the Garou, players experience the beauty and brutality of nature, the

complexity of human society, and the importance of balance in a world that often feels out of sync.

As players delve into this immersive universe, they are invited to question the status quo, embrace their inner beast, and fight for the soul of the Earth. Whether you are a veteran of role-playing games or a newcomer drawn to the allure of the werewolf mythos, the Werewolf: The Apocalypse Core Rulebook offers a compelling and thought-provoking experience that is sure to resonate long after the game has ended.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is 'Werewolf: The Apocalypse' about?**

'Werewolf: The Apocalypse' is a tabletop role-playing game set in the World of Darkness universe, where players take on the roles of werewolves, or Garou, who fight against the corruption of the environment and the forces of civilization.

### **What are the main features of the 'Werewolf: The Apocalypse' core rulebook?**

The core rulebook includes character creation guidelines, the history and lore of the Garou, rules for combat and shapeshifting, as well as information on the various tribes and spiritual entities within the game.

### **How does character creation work in 'Werewolf: The Apocalypse'?**

Character creation involves selecting a tribe, determining attributes and abilities, and choosing gifts and backgrounds that reflect the werewolf's role in the world, including their connection to nature and their spiritual lineage.

### **What are the different tribes in 'Werewolf: The Apocalypse'?**

The game features several tribes, each with unique traits, beliefs, and social structures, including the Fianna, Get of Fenris, Shadow Lords, and others, each representing different aspects of werewolf culture.

### **What is the importance of the Wurm in 'Werewolf: The Apocalypse'?**

The Wurm represents corruption and destruction in the game, symbolizing the forces that threaten nature and the balance of the world. Werewolves fight against the Wurm's influence through their actions and stories.

### **Can players customize their werewolf characters?**

Yes, players can customize their characters through various choices in attributes, abilities, gifts, and flaws, allowing for a wide range of character builds and play styles.

## What role do spirits play in 'Werewolf: The Apocalypse'?

Spirits are integral to the game, serving as allies, guides, or adversaries for the werewolves. They inhabit the Umbra, a spirit world that parallels the physical realm, influencing the story and gameplay.

## Is 'Werewolf: The Apocalypse' suitable for new players?

'Werewolf: The Apocalypse' can be suitable for new players, though it may have a steep learning curve due to its rich lore and complex mechanics. However, many resources and beginner-friendly guides are available to assist newcomers.

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