



## Wilder

*Christina Dodd*

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# **Wilder**

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**Wilder** Christina Dodd

**Only beloved author Christina Dodd could bring you the explosive paranormal excitement of the Chosen Ones combined with Aleksandr Wilder's story ... and redemption...**

As a young man, Aleksandr Wilder abandoned his duty--and for that lapse, he was tortured, tormented ... and transformed. Now he prowls the tunnels beneath the city, fighting on the frontline against the forces of hell, never daring to dream that he can live as a man again.

After seven years fighting the world's ultimate evil, Chosen One Charisma Fangorn has become a tough, strong warrior without illusions or joy...even her gift of hearing the earthsong has faded. Deaf to her own instincts, she never suspects that a monster lurks in the dark underneath the streets.

When Aleksandr finds Charisma under attack, he rescues and cares for her, and hope stirs once more in his heart...and in the world. But in the secret recesses of his soul, he knows the truth. A woman so exceptional could never love a beast...could she?

## **Wilder Details**

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Author : Christina Dodd

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## From Reader Review Wilder for online ebook

### Blacky \*Romance Addict\* says

I LOVED the Darkness Chosen series. I LOVED the first 4 books of The Chosen Ones series. But this one was just a little weird for me, the ending a bit too sugary for my taste.

Well the first thing - The cover is MAJOR false advertising! Aleksandr is covered in hair for like 85-90 percent of the book! And when I say covered in hair, I mean - half animal :O

After waiting months for the ending of this series, I guess I anticipated the story to go in some other direction... Actually, the story itself was ok, but the most that bothered me was that the hero was part animal during the whole book. Ok I get it, if the heroine finds him sexy that's ok? No it's not, atleast not for me. Sorry, I'm not into hairy guys, but I could live with that if he wasn't also half animal. So, those two having sex, hmm, not a big turn-on for me. Too bad, I kinda liked them before, and I wish Charisma could have had a relationship with Aleksandr himself, knowing it was him, and him being atleast somewhat normal. And I kinda expected that the Guardian/Aleksandr discovery would have some shock to it you know, an impact, a reaction like: "Woooow, you're Aleksandr :O :O :O \*shocked gasp\* " Instead it was: "Hmm maybe you're Alekandr. We'll see once you remember more." :P

The main story was good, like the others, a bit of explaining from the previous books but that was ok since I waited months to read this one and kinda forgot all the details :) Loved seeing the characters from both series together <3

The best scene was Charisma seeing the cave in the earth, and the choice she had to make :) That was beautiful :)

All have to say is - thank God this is over, and now I can do my re-reads of the Darkness Chosen series <3 <3 <3

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### Shauni says

When waiting for a long anticipated book, knowing that it will bring the story to an end a reader often has mixed feelings. One, will it live up to the hype and two does it really have to end? Oh and will I like the ending.. guess that is three questions.. In Christina Dodd's Wilder the final book of her Chosen Ones Series the answer is yes.. yes ... yes.. What a fantastic ending to a wonderful series. The Chosen ones is a series that tells the story of good vs evil in a very obvious manner. It talks about black, white and grey. It shares when characters we think are good are less than perfect and it shares when characters that we think should be irredeemable and yet are. I have enjoyed this series from the very beginning and yes am so very sad to see it end. But Ms Dodd, ends it exactly when she should and let me say she does it with a bang!!

Aleksandr Wilder, miracle baby.. A Child of prophecy who walked through fire at a very young age. He was chosen as a chosen not because he had powers but because of who he was. His family had already beat a millennium old contract with the devil, whose to say this generation couldn't do it again? He was still a child when he was chosen, brilliant, generous, kind but still a child. Four years into his service he went to get married and disappeared no one knew if he was alive or dead... Three years later the only thing he knows is

that he doesn't know anything. He is the Guardian, a beast whose sole job is to protect those below. The homeless, the mentally ill, society's cast offs. The ones who weren't protected BEFORE Armageddon and certainly not after.

Charisma Fangorn (and no she does not live with the Ents) has heard the earth speak to her for most of her life. Raised by a parent who took advantage of her talents she escaped to become her own woman. A free spirited woman who in my opinion was the heart of the Chosen. Smart mouthed and funky she yanked everyone's chains and yet she was always the one who held on to hope. Real hope that good would overcome evil. Charisma was traveling below searching for her missing bracelet when she was attacked by demons and left for dead. Brought to the Guardian's cave where she was able to resist the demon poison she finds more than healing.

Charisma and the Guardian tell a wonderful beauty and the beast story. In many ways it reminded me of Catherine and Vincent (oh come on you remember Ron Pearlman and Linda Hamilton's version of the story). Living in the tunnels below New York City. Seriously, I want to check out those tunnels so much happens down there.. from mysterious beasts to ancient treasures.. \*grins\* The Guardian knows if he goes to close to the surface he will be found so he is destined to remain below and Charisma is destined to return to her duties as a chosen one.

This story was poignant, it brought tears to my eyes several times. It was fierce, the chosen truly believed that they had a chance to ensure that good would prevail. It was romantic in oh so many ways, the most obvious in being that true love conquers all. It was a story about so much more than one man and one woman and yet in so many ways it was the story of man and woman. I LOVED this book.

I enjoyed seeing the Wilders again, who among us doesn't love Konstantine Wilder? I enjoyed some of the humor.. Rosie the bus driver especially, seriously this woman had a schedule to keep. I appreciated that Ms Dodd made sure that love conquered all for more than Charisma and Aleksandr. The story of choices and sacrifices of doing what was right above all was a truly powerful one. I could go on and on and on about this book but I keep stumbling into spoilerville and I hate doing that so I will just say.. read this book!!

This is not a stand alone book, sure you could read it as one but there is so much history, so much that came before. I suggest you not only read the Chosen Ones but you also read the Darkness Chosen Series first.. But even if you don't want to read all that came before.. read this book!!

Shauni

For more reviews by Shauni check out Tea and Book and  
Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy

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### **Book says**

I was disappointed with this book. I have been waiting a long time for Aleksandr Wilder's story. Only to read about a mishapened hairy half man half beast with a deformed skull with a metal plate in it who doesn't remember anything and doesn't resemble the character you loved in all the previous books. I felt so robbed, what a let down. I liked charisma also and the thought of bringing those two together was exciting to me until I read the book. She is nothing like herself either because it is 7 years later and Charisma is this worn out half dead person that supposedly falls in love with this half man half beast before she really knows who

he is. the love story is well written and the plot is good but I just felt depressed the whole time and missed these characters as who they were originally written as. Again, I felt robbed like this was two other characters stories and Aleksandr and Charisma's stories still havent been told yet. Anyway, if you like this author you'll probably like this book, but I rate the book based on if I will read it again and I know I won't read this one again so it was just ok for me.

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### **Michelle the Romance Witch says**

OMG that was awesome... definitely the best ending to really two series that i have ever read!!!

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### **Kari Thomas says**

LOVE all this author's books, and the "BEAUTY and THE BEAST" theme of this one was unique!

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### **♥? Dorsey aka Wrath Lover Reviews ♥? says**

Looking forward to this although I feel I need to reread the series...why did it take 2 yrs for this installment of the series to come out?

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### **Dina says**

A great read.. a wonderful ending to a captivating series that connects to the series that started my obsession with reading paranormal :)

The book was beyond expectations.. I gotta say, Ms. Dodd is still captivating her readers with such rich material, one really can't help but get addicted!

The last book was the story of our last beloved couple.. it was a heart-aching journey, a lot of sacrifices were made.. tests were put where some had failed and others had overcome them to reach new levels of realizations and targets.. foes turning to become friends and vice versa... people whom you'd think would never turn against you are lured to the darkness. Prophecies are met leading into a breathless endings :) Even the epilogue was beautiful.. taking a look into the Chosen after a few years.. and I gotta say.. opening this book with a scene from the Wilder family's 4th of July was a great start.. I've missed those guys and it made me a bit nostalgic that I'm thinking of re-reading the series again :)

Great addition from Ms. Dodd and I can't wait to see the next series come to life :D

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### **Ally says**

This is the final installment of The Chosen Ones series. The previous book Chains of Fire was released in

2010 so it was a two year wait before Wilder was released. I have to say that after following the series I never expected Aleksandr and Charisma to be a match. In previous books there never seemed to be any chemistry between them other than a firm friendship that the whole group shared with each other, so I was quite surprised that these two were put together. Not that they didn't go well together but I guess I presumed that other than Isabella and Samuel everyone else would get a separate book and a new hero and heroine. Which turned out not to be the case, so while I was expecting a 6 book series I got a 5 book series and a two year gap.

While I'm glad there was finally a conclusion to the series I'm a little sad about how the storyline went, because there is a series before this one that links the Wilder family and how Aleksandr is 'fit' to be a Chosen One. So I put in a lot of reading time and a few years into these two series and I feel a little like the payout wasn't as much as I had expected.

Aleksandr is lost, believed dead by some or turned by others yet the Chosen Ones still fight even though they know that if all seven of them aren't present for the final battle Evil will win and the world will become something different. I don't want to give too much away about this storyline because I think you have to read the whole series as I don't think Wilder would be a good stand-alone book because there's too much background and important information if you don't at least start with the first book Storm of Visions.

Charisma is a great character, Aleksandr gets the redemption he seeks and as a reader I finally get a conclusion to a series I was fond of, but it's not what I hoped it would be.

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## **Kathy says**

Setting: Blythe, Washington - Cascade Mountains – Wilder Family homes in the forest; New York – Shea's home, and Chosen Central – the Belows (tunnels and caves below) – Guardian's Cave - Osgood's Tower;

Theme:

Trial by fire to refine the character; facing ones fears; love – man for woman, man (and woman) for humankind, and man for family; fate; good overcoming evil

Characters:

Guardian aka Aleksandr Wilder: 3 years ago, Alek went into a court to marry, and never came out – instead he was restrained by his bride and her cohorts, taken north, and experimented on and tortured (including the removal of skull bone to plant a tracking device and a plate with a hinge to give the doctor easy access to his brain), until he allowed himself to shift part way into wolf to escape... he woke up in the Belows of New York, and named the new Guardian of the Belows – to keep its residents safe, fighting off bad guys as well as demons; he has no memory of what came before, but is riddled with nightmares he can't remember; the Guardian's cave was built by an unknown entity, with a waterfall in one corner for cleaning and drinking, natural light during day, and glowing rocks at night, a ledge for a bedroom;

Charisma Fangorn: connected to the earth, which sings to her – she wears a rock bracelet; but the earth is calling her to its depths, and she fears death if she goes, so she ignores it and her rocks are fading in strength; for 3 years she has been fighting hard, a losing battle, with the Chosen; she succumbed to and thought she loved Osgood's agent sent to seduce her (learning about her desires from her adopted mother by paying her for the info)... but when he went to kill her, she defended herself killing him instead; she 'falls' underground, and can't find her way out wandering for 3 days until exhausted and the demons being their final assault;

Moises and Amber: Guardian's helpers;

Taurean: Guardian's helper – but she is a bit crazy... she's sees the world as it is, not as she wants it to be; she was of the aristocracy, but abused, and withdrew; in her craziness is truth... and she aids Charisma;

Dr. King: dwarf doctor to the poor, abandoned, unloved, needy; though we don't know until end, he trades knowledge of the Guardian's doings to Osgood's men in trade for access to necessary medical supplies; he treats Guardian, and Charisma;

Smith Bernhard: crazed doctor, fascinated with the supernatural, willing to dissect and torture to learn more; Osgood's man, and he considers Wilder his greatest challenge;

Osgood: Satan inhabits his body; a month to the end of the 7 years... and since it appears the Chosen will not be able to stop him, he is eagerly looking forward to dominating the earth with his evilness;

Jaqueline and Caleb / Aaron and Rosamund / John and Genny / Isabelle and Samuel: The rest of the seven – still working to unlock the angel's feather (Isabelle, using her empathy, is able to open the safety deposit box in Switzerland – to carry out the sword shaped box undetected; overjoyed at Charisma's return, and then with finding Aleksandr;

Irving Shea / Dina: she comes to him in the end (he leads the Chosen, she is of the Others – intense love affair in their youth, but Irving betrayed her), mindspeaking with him; and with pushing of the housekeeper/Dina's sister Martha, and not waning any of the Chosen to sacrifice themselves, Irving, with Dina's agreement (looking forward to being together in the afterlife) open the box, releasing the feather;

McKenna: the Chosen have warmed up to him, in spite of his plodding, formal, serious manners – and he is fond of them; he is to mentor the next Chosen;

Vidar Davidov: what kind of creature is he? Unaging... knowing the past, and what the future needs; he gives Guardian a magical brew to unlock his memories once and for all;

Konstantine Wilder and Zorana – and 4 sons and 17 grandchildren and 5 greatgrandchildren: A family that gave up shapeshifting and their pact with the devil to live in the US and to love one another... Vidar calls Konstantine when Guardian shows up, and the whole family goes to New York – welcoming him with open arms, not blinking twice at his half wolf form – and help in defeating Osgood;

Summary:

Bitten by a demon, rescued by Guardian, Charisma is unconscious for 11 days... and once awake, is easily drained of energy (the demon bite) – she is dying from it; but once awake, she and Guardian connect – talk – make love, with a few hiccups; Charisma is healed somewhat by the earth, burrowing into the floor of the cave – but she is ignoring the call of the earth, and gets Guardian to protect her at night from sleepwalking, not allowing her to leave;

Once she is pronounced healed by a 'playing both sides of the fence' doctor, and learning the rest were home, she takes him to Vidar's bar – and then heads home; the Chosen have one feather... they are happy to see Charisma, and hopeful when she tells them of a possible Alek... but when she wakes up all are gone... and Martha encourages her to go and help an orphanage run by nuns and overrun by demons... she goes, and is losing (even with the elderly nuns help), and Guardian (having been warned by Tauren, having been told by Dr. King – bursts out to her rescue... but then Bernhard's men are there, with the police... they capture Guardian in a net and the helicopter is taking him... but Charisma snags it, and offers her knife – she falls off (to be retrieved by the nuns) and he cuts himself out, falls to roof and runs to safety;

Charisma knows the demon poison is killing her, and while with the nuns, the Mother Superior listens to her, and counsels her to face her fear, and to do right... and the nun dresses her in a Chanel Jackie O light blue suit, and takes her to a door to the underground... where Guardian fits her and carries her to the sacred cave she needs to be in... and she 'hears' that she has a choice... to take the angel feather (that Osgood had buried in concrete at the bottom of the foundation of his 100+ storied building, but it magically sunk through the rock to this sacred cave) and a sip of the water in the cave for energy but the poison would eventually kill her – and take the feather to its companion and save the world – or to take a big drink of water and be cured and give a big drink to Alek, and he will be made man again... and reluctantly, knowing it means death for her, she does the right thing, and they return the feather to the Chosen...

An Osgood and Satan are on top of his building – pulling in a storm, causing earth tremors, with his employees loading up the 1st floor to be his ultimate sacrifice – when a busload of Chosen, Wilders, Belowers, and wealthy (after a crazy bus ride) unload... with the goal of getting Charisma with the two feathers wrapped in her jacket (they seem to have chosen her) to the elevators and up to Osgood – and they know that the feathers and flight are part of the solution... and the couples are fighting side by side to get her to the elevators, to save as many people as they can.. and just she and Alek can go up... and he is 'pulled' out of the elevator to face his nemesis – Bernhardt and skanky ex-fiance – and he makes himself fully beast to fight them and get up to Charisma...

And Osgood thinks he has won... has hurt Charisma... when an injured Alek joins them... and they take the feathers, touch them to his back and they grow into wings... and he carries her over the side, and somehow this dispels the storm, and Satan leaves Osgood's body... and his building collapses (just after the last of the Chosen and humans exit)... victory... and as they are flying, the hair sweeps off his body, and he is returned to man... and she is healed of the poison... and she is pregnant (Osgood told her)...

And 4 years later, all the women have 2 children (except Jacqueline who had a long recovery period for injuries in the building – but is now carrying twins to catch up)... and the news tells of some evil overload in China... but Samuel turns off the news, and tells them that it is up to the new Chosen to deal with it – and they are just to be available if asked... ahhh

Memorable scenes:

Konstantine's speech – He gazed at the diamond in his crown, his Zorana, his wife... He gazed at his sons and daughters and his grandsons and his granddaughters, overflowing with welcome... they were is rubies and emeralds and pearls.

The waterfall in Guardian's cave – him watching her, thinking she doesn't know he's there... and later her watching him...

Guardian getting to practice lovemaking he learned online on Charisma;

The first night they make love... at first they are simply in bed to sleep – but they talk, and as she talks of her adopted mother's exploitation of her, and he touches her bottom lip, she turns away – not from his touch, but from her discomfort of talking of her mother – and he interprets it as disgust of his form; later as she thinks he is asleep, she looks at him, touches his lip... and then decides to give him one kiss... and he can no longer hold back, but makes love to her ... and turns from her after in anger – feeling as if she allowed it as a novelty, not as acceptance... and he goes out in the morning to fight demons, and counsels himself that though she is using him, sex for sex is okay and what he wants, mad at himself for getting angry – but when he returns, she sets him straight – once she understands his thoughts;

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### **Trisha says**

I really liked this series and I was a little disappointed by this book. besides it reminding me a lot of the '80s Tv show of beauty and the beast it seemed like she was rushing to finish the series. in all the other books I never caught any kind of romantic connection between the main characters besides friendship and in this book it just hit you with the it. I think it would have been a little more believable if there was some connection prior to this book. don't get me wrong it was a good storeyline but to be put with the other books in the series it was a let down.

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### **Cherokee1642 says**

I was disappointed to read some of the other reviews. I felt some may have missed that this is the final in a series and therefore the authors way of tying all of the series up together. She also left a hint that there could be more chosen books by writing of troubles beyond the present help of the just retired members. Ms. Dodd is very talented and I just wish I could do half of what she does . Pulling a book out of your heart and soul and putting it out there for people to read has to be like putting your own child at risk. Kudos to her and all the other authors out there , great and the not so great for having the courage to put pen to paper, so that for a little while I can escape to another land. Thank you

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### **Melindeeloo says**

3.5 stars - WILDER was a bit of a mixed read for me but my 'likes' boil down to the fact that I liked Charisma and I liked her with the Guardian - once they got past an initial hurdle - and I liked seeing bits of the previous Chosen pairs.

My nits (I know it looks like a lot but they are 'nits' and not 'hates') ...

...having an extended prolog with Konstantine Wilder giving his annual Fourth of July speech was not the best way to reel me into >This< story. Dodd obviously wanted to do a big reunion that included the cast from the original Darkness Chosen series, but honestly, I would have been happy with the Wilder grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles just showing up for the big battle and the epilog.

...the Beauty and the Beast tack that Dodd took with Wilder was is an odd choice (despite the fact that I generally like the trope) and there are actually some borderline moments early in the story between Charisma and the Guardian – who is a bit too close to being beastly for me to be entirely comfortable with their first 'love' scene. I do need to give Dodd credit for getting me to accept the physical relationship between them – in the aftermath of that joining Charisma dealt with the Guardian's anger and gave an honest and believable explanation of why his appearance was not an issue for her.

... even after thinking on this awhile, I am not sure why fulfilling the prophesy wins the day for the Chosen, maybe... nope, I have no clue.

... But my biggest nit with WILDER was that I think that the story would have been more effective if the mystery surrounding the Guardian had been an actual mystery and not spoiled by the title and the prolog

>and<, the back cover blurb, the characters figure it out on their own during the course of the story and I'd have liked to have been a bit more in the moment with their discovery.

I know that it looks like my 'nits' outweigh my 'likes' on the basis of 'verbal tonnage' but Dodd gets a little leeway for the prolog and the extended epilog – with final bows and babies for everyone - since this is the final book in the Chosen One and Darkness Chosen series and I did really like the parts with Charisma and the Guardian along with getting to see Isabelle and Samuel, and Caleb and Jacqueline, and Genny and John, and Aaron and Rosamund one last time.

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### **Alex says**

Fail. Total fail. I'm speechless when it comes to this book. And to think I considered reading the rest of the series...

\*die, book, die\*

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### **Lauren says**

#### **Wilder**

2 Stars

As the Chosen Ones continue their quest to overthrow Osgood and his cadre of Others, they find themselves short two members. Aleksander Wilder has been missing for 20 months while Charisma Fangorn has disappeared into the tunnels beneath New York City. Rescued by a man/creature known only as Guardian, Charisma finds herself inexplicably drawn to his strength and integrity. But can they find happiness in the midst of chaos...

Oy!

First of all, it is clear from the outset that Guardian and Aleksander are one and the same. This early revelation is unfortunate as it undermines the sense of mystery surrounding his character.

Second, Aleksander and Charisma had zero chemistry in the previous books and this remains unchanged. Their previous relationship as friends and fellow members of the Chosen One is glossed over completely, and the reasons for their sudden attraction are unrealistic. Moreover, the fact that Aleksander spends 85% of the book as a man/beast is NOT sexy!

Third, the conclusion to the Others story arc is mediocre at best. Osgood is a caricature of evil and the Others barely put in an appearance. The threat posed by those who captured and tortured Aleksander is underdeveloped and more of an afterthought. The final showdown is a mish-mash of action scenes and the resolution of the various prophecies that were such an integral part of the series are lackluster.

Finally, the saccharine sweet, cutsey chapters at the end are poorly scripted and the dialogue is too cheesy to be believed.

All in all, a huge disappointment.

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**Diane ~Firefly~ says**

[which was nice to see them all happy and lots of kids around (hide spoiler)]

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