



## The Goddess's Curse

*Cara Bristol*

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## **The Goddess's Curse** Cara Bristol

Sharona women and barbarian Lahon men maintain separate lives until libidinal fever strikes, and the women are forced to mate.

Stricken by a mysterious terminal illness, Sharona Princess Reena jumps at the chance to accompany a cousin on her mating journey so she can at least see a Lahon before she dies.

Garat, leader of the Lahon, hates the Sharona because of the woman who birthed and killed his son years ago. Now that a massive earthquake has left his people with precious little water, he has the perfect excuse to exact revenge by driving the Sharona from their homeland and taking what the Lahon need.

When he encounters Reena on the mating journey he takes her hostage to force the Sharona to capitulate to his demands, but finds himself drawn to her instead. As his desire rises, lust for revenge wanes.

But after what he's done, can he convince her of the evil that lives in the palace in time to save her life?

## **The Goddess's Curse Details**

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Author : Cara Bristol

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# From Reader Review The Goddess's Curse for online ebook

## Arianna says

I received this ebook from netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

After a series of very bad books, I was so discouraged that I started this one with low expectations. Imagine my surprise when I realised that I was actually enjoying it! It was well written, fluent, and I liked the characters. I can't wait to see them grow and to see what happens next.

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## Book Snob Sue says

4.5 stars. Loved this book, great storyline. She's the princess that is slowly dying, he's the leader of his people. The women come to find the men when they need to mate, if they have girls they raise them, if they have boys they send them to their fathers. It's a little odd, but I still loved the book. Garat had been with someone when he was young, about 10 years prior. He woke up and was already tied down by the woman, I'm gonna be honest, I really felt he was forced by her, so in my world she is null and void. There was not a lot of details, thankfully, but that was not cool. Long story short, she left his son in a basket in the woods with no blanket to keep him warm in the winter and he died....wth...see null and void. So, Garat has been looking for her to take his revenge...agreed. He figures out who she is, he takes her sick cousin instead, the princess.

These two are actually heartmates in their world and they cannot keep their hands off each other. I absolutely loved this story. She finds out that she's been poisoned all this time and his healer saves her. This was a great book, I could not put it down. It takes you through their relationship, then they are trying to save her mom, the queen, when they figure out who the traitor is. This was a safe read, with a lot of heat and heart mates. No ow or om drama, just book drama. No epilogue and just an hfn. But I floved this book and storyline....next book please?.

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## Laurel says

This review is from: The Goddess's Curse (Heartmates Book 1) (Kindle Edition)

Cara Bristol is known for writing wonderful spanking romance. This book is a departure from that type of book and it's an amazing Sci-Fi about a group of women that live apart from men. They mate with the men when that have the libidinal fever. They keep the baby girls and give the baby boys to the men. The women are called Sharona and the men are called Lahon. Garat hates the Sharona women because one of them killed his baby boy. The men need to form an alliance with the women because they need water and need an aqueduct. There are many twists and turns and unexpected happenings. There is romance, an evil villain, danger, violence, danger, murder and more ups and downs then an elevator.

Reena is a fantastic heroine and Garat a strong marvelous hero. He has to convince that there is an evil that threatens them all.

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## **Mei says**

With a description given is the synopsis I was expecting something better...

It's not bad, but there were moments that I wanted to scream at the heroine and the hero both!

The premise of a world where the male and female live separate, at the point of being identified as separate people: Sharona and Lahon, was very intriguing. I would have liked if the reason for that separation was explained better, but it was still interesting.

The heroine, Reena's illness was a filmsy at best! Why nobody, not even her mother, asked itself why a normal, healthy girl just waste away after a cold? And nobody suspects a poisoning? Nobody check what kind of herbs are in her tonic? Mah... to me it was unbelievable...

But, as soon as the Lahon's healer takes a look at her he finds it out immediately? Really????!!

And Reena's unwillingness to accept the truth of who tried to kill her, even when presented with proof? What about that? She's so pure of heart that she cannot accept that evil exists? Filmsy excuse....

The hero, Garat, was also strange: he knows that he must secure the water supply for his people, but as soon as he recognize the portrait of the woman who birthed and killed his son, he acts in way that is sure to make the negotiation go to hell. And why? Because he hates her and wants vengeance!

What about the needs of his people????!! Is it OK to make them suffer because of his desire for rvenge????!!

For the good part, the way love developed between Reena and Garat was nicely done and tender and hot too.

Also the secondary characters of Lahon's healer, Meloni and the queen of the Sharona, Ellynn were much better and more interesting than the main characters!

The idea of jewels, with which all the Sharona are born, to determine the time when the mating must be done and inducing the mating lust that force the woman to serch and mate with Lahon men, by changing color is very, very clever and it remebered me of an old movie "Logan's Run" (there the jewels determined when people should die, but the idea is very similar!)

So, as you see I have a mixed feeling... this is not a 5 stars book, but it has enough interesting elements to merit a read, especially since it is the first in the series.

Im intrigued enough to read the next one, hoping that the negative things have been overcome!

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## **Linda says**

It took me a couple of chapters to get into this book but once Princess Reena met Garat, the story quickly took off and I couldn't put it down. In a society where women and men live divided, only coming together when the mating fever hits, Reena and Garat are heartmates who must battle tradition and teachery within the palace before they can even contemplate a way to be together. Loved the character and the writing is great.

This book has a HFN ending but left story threads open for other books in the series but am a bit disappointed that I didn't find any. I enjoyed the story very much.

I received a free review copy of this book from NetGalley and am voluntarily leaving a review.

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## ? BookAddict 🦋 La Crimson Femme says

### **Women are from Venus and Men are from Mars**

Battle of the sexes may sound a little extreme, but when it is critical to survival, it may not sound as crazy. Sharona are a group of selfish women living in the lap of luxury. Lahon are a group men rationing water in order to survive. Whenever members of the two groups meet, it becomes a story of he said/she said.

In this goddess magic filled world, men and women are separated for some unknown reason. When they come together, it is because a woman goes in heat and needs her itch scratched. This blessing or cursed condition is called the libidinal fever. Every woman in this world is born with a crystal embedded on their body. When the crystal turns colours, that is when a woman knows it's time to find a shack in the woods and get some loving.

From a world building perspective, this story is fine. It's a bit simplistic which is good for romance lovers who aren't fans of anything remotely fantasy/sci-fi. The segregation by sexes and how the babies are raised is disturbing. How male babies are returned to their fathers is deplorable because it kind of feels like they are being thrown out like trash. They are unwanted and unloved. The disparity between the males and females in this world makes me wonder why any male would want to anything to do with these shallow females living in lush privilege. Personally, I'd recommend the Lahon men to keep the females prisoner after mating to see if they are pregnant. Only after it's deemed the female is not pregnant, is she free to go. If the Sharona woman is pregnant then the two have to stay together until the child is born and then they can separate. Still, from a conflict perspective, the way this book is set up, it makes sense and it encourages the readers to cheer for the Lahon because many of the Sharonan are crazy.

Character wise, this is my love hate relationship with Ms. Bristol. When I see her name, I can't help but want to read her books. She creates great male leads. This is what I love about her books. Many times her females are so disgraceful that I'm embarrassed to be a female. They embody the worst traits. Or I should say traits that I despise: shallowness, stupidity, overly emotional and pettiness. The villain in this story is pure evil. There is nothing redeeming about them. From the start, it is easy to figure out the plot and who is the one causing the problem and why.

Reena isn't too stupid to live. She's blinded by her emotions which makes her use crazy angry woman logic. This is a pet peeve of mine and a reader preference. I think less of her and don't have much respect for her. To be fair, she does grow up a bit in the story so she does get better. Garat on the other hand is a man I can respect. He cares for his people. He's suffered a terrible loss. He doesn't use that loss against Reena. He uses facts and logic which is refreshing. He's not flawless because he does have problems communicating at times and he's a stubborn ox. This helps keep the male character from being too perfect.

The romance of the story is sweet. It is about finding that one person who sings to the heart of another. Garat and Reena's rollercoaster relationship is fun to watch. It is a funny example of Women are from Venus and Men are from Mars. The sex between them is cute as they learn about each other. It's similar to virgins finding out about carnal pleasures and now they are hooked. Orgasms are a gift and should be given often

and freely! Overall, this is a sweet romance with a little intrigue and assassination thrown in. Recommended for paranormal romance lovers who love soulmate themes and white knights saving the day.

*\* provided by Reading Alley*

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## **C.A. Szarek says**

### **FULL OF AWESOME!**

Omg the ways I loved this book are too numerous to count. Just a wow for me. It had everything I require in an awesome ready. Just greatness! I loved Reena from the start and of course Garat is super hot. Love the broody guy who's just a big softy inside. I can't wait for book 2!! I would like it stat!

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## **Marta Cox says**

Well talk about the battle of the sexes! In this new series males and females live completely separately and have formed their own tribes. So how does that work as far as procreation goes you may ask yourself. Clearly there has to be some type of interaction otherwise their species will die out. Ok both male and female on this planet worship and follow the teachings of the same Goddess and it just so happens that when the time is right the females ( Sharona ) experience a desperate rise in libido needing them to find a suitable male (Lahon ) or two! The Lahon males are considered to be barbaric by the slightly more refined women but nature will always find a way!

This was a quick easy read for me and my afternoon just flew by. Essentially it's about Reena, the Princess of the Sharona discovering there's more to life than she thought. I quite liked her as in spite of her privileged lifestyle she felt grounded and had compassion. She knows she is dying but is desperate to experience even if somewhat vicariously , what life and living is all about.

Step forward Garat, a man with little reason to trust the Sharona females but he needs their help if his people are to survive . He happens upon Reena when she is in dire need of help but his plan to hold her hostage for ransom pretty soon deteriorates into something with very far reaching consequences!

So a very easy premise to follow and maybe just a tad predictable , or at least as to where the real danger might be coming from. I found the ideas here as to who brings up which baby kind of sad especially when the author explained what the Sharona females did with any male offspring. I was quite perplexed as to how this all began but then towards the end it became pretty obvious that this way of life might not always have been just so , which piqued my curiosity no end !

If you enjoy a romance that's almost a coming of age in some respects than this fits quite nicely as Reena has her rosy coloured spectacles well and truly ripped away and smashed into little pieces! Obviously Garat has a lot to do with that but there's something pulling them together that's a lot more complicated than the usual hot chemistry. I couldn't help but wonder just how this story could end as there's just too much that needs to change but luckily the author has clearly not quite finished with this world she has created . Sexy, interesting and with one or two surprises and a series worth pursuing if you enjoy reading about hot alpha guys paired with courageous , loyal females .

I was gifted a copy via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

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## **S.J. says**

The Goddess's Curse is a compelling read. Not only has Cara Bristol created a whole new intriguing world, but she's captured something quite beautiful. The conflict between the hero and heroine is strong and ornate. It makes their love that much more rich and sensual when they can no longer fight their desires. Cara does an amazing job of showing that moment and the result is amazing. The series is called Heartmates. I love that. It so matches what the hero and heroine find. But while their love grows, terrible things are happening. The evil in this story has wasted no time. I remember when I started to realize who it was, I had no idea the depths of betrayal this one would take. "Evil does not surrender. It must be destroyed" <- I won't tell you what happens. But I suggest you experience it for yourself. The Goddess's Curse is a must read. I'm very much looking forward to the next book in the series.

I received a copy of this book from the author for my honest review.

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## **Liz ~ Liz's Reading Life says**

What's better than a strong woman? Lots of strong women! The women live apart from the men and only come together it the benefit and survival of both tribes.

Reena and Garat are the perfectly matched, even though Garat has some strong feelings about the Sharona women due to a past event. Reena is amazing and love how she took her chance to see a Lahon. Once the meet... oh boy!!

This story has it all... romance, survival, evil plots and a roller coaster of emotions. Cara really has a hit this one out of the park. I can't wait to see what will happen in the next installment in the Heartmates Series.

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## **Susan says**

I really enjoyed reading this fascinating book. Some form of spanking is usually found in the Cara Bristol books I have read but that was not an element in this story at all. This book had a mix of science fiction, romance, suspense and action with wonderful characters and an interesting world.

Reena is dying and decides to make the most of her remaining life despite what her best friend/cousin thinks or anyone else for that matter. She lives in a world separate from men (Lahon) and is very curious about this unknown species. When her cousin goes on a mating journey in search of a male, she goes along to get a look at this very mysterious creature. Garat and his village is running out of water. He is intent on running off the Sharona (women) and saving his people. He hates the Sharona because one murdered his newborn son and now he wants nothing more than to drive them away. Garat and Reena are complete opposites but their attraction is instant and explosive.

This is a well written and engrossing story that I read in one sitting. It has an interesting storyline with fascinating characters that I am hoping get their own stories (hint hint). I highly recommend this wonderful

story to readers who love well-written romances!

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### **Katherine Deane says**

I was so excited to read the first story in Cara Bristol's newest series. I loved her Breeder series, and knew this one was going to be a winner. And I was not disappointed!

Combine Cara's impeccable writing with a fantastic, "draw you in and make you want to stay up all night reading" kind of plot, along with awesome characters, and you have a story that you can't put down.

I loved the whole premise of women (Sharona) on one side versus men (Lahon); it kind of reminded me of Xena. ?

Reena, the Queen's daughter, was an amazing, strong character I absolutely had to root for! I loved her!

And Garat, the leader of the Lahon was so hot, strong, alpha male; an awesome depiction of man at his best. I adored him.

But my biggest reaction came from watching the bad guy (I won't say who it is, so I don't spoil any early reading). This was a bad guy that I LOVED to hate!

I poured through this story as fast as I could, while also going slow enough to not miss anything. It was such a thrilling ride, filled with awesome romance, hot sex, a great plot with lots of twists and turns, truly good "good guys", and reeeeeeeally bad "bad guys".

I cannot wait to read the next book when it comes out.

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### **Danielle says**

I enjoyed it. The world she created was really interesting, different. Will, for sure read the next Heartmates.

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### **Pam Mooney says**

A wonderful new world with lots of adventure and exciting characters. Lots of plot twist and wonderful strong women and underlying sexual tension with worthy men. A great adult fairy tale

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### **Lisa Medley says**

I loved this book. The Sharona women are strong (think Xena Warrior Princess) but the one thing they need for their race to survive is men. Of course, only sparingly and only when they are overcome with libidinal fever, which is their strong urge to procreate. The men, the Lahon, have their village and the women have



another and never the twain shall meet until an essential, life-sustaining element puts both their tribes at risk.

Reena is a fantastically feisty heroine and the perfect counter-match for the hero, Garat. The push and pull of these two flawed humans and societies highlight the eternal battle between men and women.

As usual there was so much tension, I might have skipped ahead to find out what was going to happen!

Oh and there is a deliciously evil villain who will surprise you for sure.

I can't wait for the next book in this trilogy.

I highly recommend this book!

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