



Primal Bonds

Jennifer Ashley

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When half-Fae, half-Shifter Andrea Gray flees an abusive would-be mate, the only way she is allowed to relocate to the Austin Shifternation is if a Shifter there claims her as mate.

Sean Morrissey, the Guardian of his clan and all of Shifternation, is mateless, lonely, and has a tough job--to send the souls of deceased Shifters into the afterworld. He volunteers to claim her, sight unseen, but doesn't realize that one look at the gray-eyed, dark-haired Andrea will stir the mating frenzy in him. Even though the mate-claim isn't finalized, official, or yet blessed, Sean will do anything to get Andrea into his life and keep her there, forever.

Book 2 in the Shifters Unbound series. Full-length novel, Austin Shifternation.

Primal Bonds Details

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From Reader Review Primal Bonds for online ebook

Gina says

I enjoyed this book immensely. This is book 2 in the Shifters Unbound series, and in this series we get a better look at the segregated life the Shifters have to endure. I gotta tell you, this injustice just pissed me off.

We met Sean in book 1, Liam's brother (love Liam still), he is the Guardian. He is the keeper of the sword that ensures that when shifters die their souls move onto the Summerland and are not at risk to be trapped by the Fae. We also learn about the Fae, the race that created the Shifters to serve them.

And we meet Andrea, she is half Fae, half Shifter, and not accepted in her current clan because of this. Sean agrees to claim her as his mate and therefore gives her a chance at a better life.

What I liked about these two was their friendship from the start. No big drama, no big resentment or chips on either of their shoulders. They get to know each other and support each other. Andrea learns how Sean's role as Guardian affects him, she tries to ease his burdens and supports him. Sean discovers the hardships Andrea has had to face because of her lineage and makes a point of making her feel welcomed, accepted and respected. I enjoyed the buildup of this relationship, watching their feelings for each other grow and deepen. I gotta tell you, it just made me swoon!

Of course there is trouble in Shifertown, and not just from the humans who are always trying to beat and bully them. Unlikely alliances are formed and a fight is on the horizon for dominance.

Overall, an enjoyable, fun, feel good book.....me happy!

Karla says

Terrific second installment in this series! While the book generally focused on Sean and Andrea's mate bonding, it also gave the reader a broader insight into the world of the Shifters. No hiding here, humans are aware of their existence and use 'collars' to maintain control over them, which makes for a very different plot. Not only did we see the return of previous characters, we met some new ones and were brought into the world of the Fae. The Shifters world is expanding, as is the potential for some great story lines. Sean...well what can you say about him other than...WOW! You feel his compassion and power just pouring off the pages. Loved the strength in Andrea, both mentally and physically. Great pairing. The secondary romance between Dylan and Glory was very enjoyable.

I look forward to following the lives of the wonderful characters we've met. Going forward I hope Ronan has a story somewhere, that cuddly, oversized Ursine and when that adorable Connor comes into his own...watch out! Just hope we don't have to wait a year for the next book.

Elizabeth says

"Hurting is part of life, isn't it? So is happiness."

Primal Bonds is the second book in the Shifters Unbound Series. Jennifer Ashley has done a stunning job creating a magical world with Shifters and Faes. The first book introduced us to this world where humans are striving to control shifters through collars. These collars are attached to their skin. The person wearing the collar receives a shock if they try to show any sign of aggression. (Boy can I think of places that would come in handy....just kidding!) Shifters are forced to live separately from the human world.

Andrea is a half Shifter half Fae hybrid. She was forced out of her clan because she didn't want to mate with Jared (the son of her clan's leader). The only way to escape that claim was for her to be claimed by another. Lucky for her, Sean Morrissey is available and happy to help. Sean is the guardian of his clan and protects the sacred sword which is used in time of death. The sword has Fae magic and helps release the spirits of the fallen Shifters to the next life.

Andrea is a spunky heroine and has no trouble "waging verbal banter war" with Sean. The two share an immediate connection and the sexual tension is high from the first page of the text. Andrea suffers from nightmares and Sean conveniently steps in as her protector.

"Andrea laughed again, the sound softer as she relaxed back into him. Sean held her in a safe embrace, cradling her like a cub until she fell into limp, dreamless slumber."

Andrea has so many emotions dragging her down. She has never felt fully accepted due to her half breed status. Additionally, she never knew her father. Now she is being called from her sleep out in to the dark where something is lurking there.

"We'll figure this out, love," he said. "I won't let you be hurt."-Sean

Although Sean has made the mate claim on Andrea, she must accept it. There were several elements in this read that set this book apart from the first in the series, as well as, other books that I have read in this genre. I found it refreshing that time wasn't wasted on the question of "IF" Andrea would accept the claim. Instead, it was a matter of "when" and "how". I thoroughly enjoyed the peace in knowing that these two were going to be together.

"It's a damn scary thing claiming a mate. I want to protect you all the time, and never stop."-Sean

As Sean and Andrea are working through the beginning of their relationship, trouble is brewing all around. Humans are attacking Shifters. Clans are battling for control. Liam is working towards staking claim as the new leader of his clan. Dylan, Sean and Liam's father, is struggling with his desire to take Glory as his mate. I felt like we received a bonus romance in this read because of the background conflict between Glory and Dylan.

However, the true magic in this story is between the two main characters. I enjoyed every minute of reading about Andrea and Sean!

"For her clear gray eyes, for her sweet curves, for the way she said his name. For the way her clothes clung to her body, for her sense of humor, for her buying him underwear with smiley faces on them. It was the way she smelled, the way she liked coffee, and the way she winked at the Shifter groupies in the bar and left them speechless. It was her Fae scent and her fine skin, her breath, her warmth, and the fact that she walked upon the earth."

Overall, Primal Bonds was a fantastic read. It had action, intense plot development, interesting characters, and a great deal of heart. Jennifer Ashley has a fluid writing style that shifts seamlessly between the different points of view. For me, I find her characters are the key to the success in her books. I just can't help but want to read more and find out how they are doing and what will happen next. There are always times when I am reading PRN that I want to roll my eyes a little at the "craziness" of it all. And yet, it is in those moments that I relax and enjoy the journey into another world. If you are a fan of PRN, you should definitely check out this series. You will not be disappointed.

"He already loved her with intensity that made him insane, but right now he loved her more than ever. Andrea understood exactly what was going through Sean's head as he watched Connor struggle, knew exactly what Sean needed. She was offering Sean a solution with her brave generosity. She was his mate all right."

D.G. says

Just meh. I didn't feel any chemistry between these two...it almost felt as if they didn't have much choice, specially on the hero's side. The narrator for this book does a TERRIBLE Irish accent so none of the Irish characters sounded very sexy - and this included the hero, his brother and father. At least it got exciting at the end. I'll continue reading because I want to see where the series is going.

Jacqueline's Reads says

4 Shifter Stars

I liked Primal Bonds more than the first book, but there were parts that were slow and parts that were entertaining.

First off, the series is not steamy. It's kind of tame and that's a little disappointing. There are some slow parts that made it a little hard to read. I put the book down a few times and picked up other books. I liked the beginning and the end. The middle I didn't care for too much.

I'll be honest and say I didn't really care for Sean in the previous book. The whole guardian of the sword thing is an odd storyline and the fact he let his brother die in order to protect the sword is kind of sad. Who does that?

I did like Andrea. I liked that she is half fae and half shifter, it was different. I liked how honest and down to earth she was. The book isn't too angsty and I liked that too. The tension between Andrea and Sean was nice, but I didn't really see the chemistry. I felt like it went from like to lust in 90 seconds. I usually like those sort of things in shifter books, but I couldn't get sucked into it like I usually do.

I do like Sean's dad and the whole Glory storyline, that was cute.

Other than that. This isn't my favorite shifter series, but I will continue with the series. I think there will be some hit or misses for me. I just need to find them.

Lauren says

Primal Bonds

4.5 Stars

Synopsis

Forced to take refuge in a new shiftertown, Andrea Gray accepts Sean Morrissey's offer of a mate-claim believing that nothing will come of it. However, upon meeting Sean in person, Andrea is surprised to discover that there is nothing platonic or convenient about their connection. Similarly, Sean, as the Guardian of his town, never thought he would find a mate but is fascinated by the feelings Andrea arouses in him.

Review

An excellent romance with likeable protagonists and no unnecessary angst or misunderstandings. Andrea has an amazing strength of will. She stands up against her pack without fear, looks everyone straight in the eye and tells it like it is. I loved her playfulness and wicked humor as well as her take no prisoners attitude.

Sean is sexy, caring and affectionate. He protects those he cares but never tries to break Andrea's spirit - not that she would let him. Their banter and verbal sparring is one of the best aspects of the book as is the construction of their relationship. The idea of the mate claim of convenience is wonderful as it highlights Andrea's desperate circumstances as well as Liam's compassion and loneliness, which forms the foundation of a strong and binding connection (view spoiler).

The plot is action packed with multiple storylines that coalesce into an integrated whole, although there are some illogical elements and unanswered questions, such as the fact that Shifters are only allowed old cars and dial up Internet - if they are such a threat to humans why are they allowed these things at all? In addition, why doesn't (view spoiler).

The world building in this series is excellent and continues with new information on the fae and the Guardian's sword. While the collar removal plot from the previous book develops further, it is on the back burner while the shifter-fae conflict takes center stage. The discrimination against the shifters is particularly compelling but what I found most interesting is the prejudice that exists within the shifter community itself. No one is above prejudice, which is very realistic. Nevertheless, the hate crime aspect of the story could have

been better developed and the ultimate explanation is disappointing (view spoiler).

The next book changes location and a linking character is introduced. While this is somewhat contrived, the character is intriguing and I look forward to seeing what happens with him and his family.

Ami says

Oh, I would love to *love* this book since I enjoyed the first one in this series; but somehow the story just didn't deliver. Maybe it wasn't the right moment for me to read it or maybe because I felt like I was missing the *romancing*, that I ended up not caring for the two characters.

When the story started, Sean already took a mate claim over Andrea. A character that had not even appeared in the first book. I felt like being shoved into a plot without a warning, it was a "huh, how did that happened" reaction from me. It didn't give me enough foundation to like the relationship, even as it went along, I felt disconnected with the story. I also didn't really care about the "action" storyline.

Truth be told, I skimmed almost half of the book, then jumped to the last chapter to finish it. I didn't feel sorry that I missed out, probably, the solution to Andrea's heritage or the human/shifters or coalition that seemed to attack other shifters.

Hopefully the third book is better. But this one, it's already forgotten *shrugs*

Mei says

A nice story. Really.

Interesting characters, interesting story line where Shapeshifters and Fae are mixed together.

But, I didn't find it so very interesting. Maybe I need to take a pause from Paranormal, because I didn't find anything novel here. Just the same old...

Jen says

Another great re-read, and now I'm up to where I was in the series when I stopped. I am very eager to continue onto the third book now that I am refreshed! I am also pleased to report that my ratings for the first two books stayed the same as when I read them a few years back! And I still think that Jennifer Ashley is a genius when it comes to writing stories. Her shifter world that she has created is addicting, and I love visiting it each time I open her books!!!

In this installment, we get to witness what it is like for Sean to be the Guardian of the Sword. It is his job to set the shifters spirit free in death. It is a lonely job, as not too many female shifters want to become a mate with someone who has that responsibility. For this reason, Sean decides to claim Andrea-a wolf shifter from a clan elsewhere...site unseen! As soon as they do see one another though, their mate bond flares to life, and

they become extremely protective and possessive of one another. Not all is as it seems in shifter town though, and there is about to be a huge betrayal of the clans that goes down. Shifter town will be rocked to its core.

My only reason for giving this one a four stars was that there was a part in the book where Andrea and Sean weren't together...(They weren't broken up...they just were in different spots) The ironic thing is that even though this is a pet peeve of mine, in this story their absence from each other wasn't near as much as the present stories do to couples. So, I would even go as far as rating this one a 4.5 stars...as it really wasn't awful when they were separated...it fit with the story and like I said...it wasn't them being broken up or anything like that...So, It is me just being a picky b*tch...LOL

Megan Riverina Romantics/Meggerfly says

I was lucky enough to win an advance reading copy of Primal Bonds from Jennifer Ashley's facebook page.

Once again Jennifer Ashley brings us to her Austin, TX Shiftertown in Primal Bonds, book 2 of her Shifters Unbound series. Here we find the Feline Shifter Sean Morrissey, Guardian of his clan and powerful member of his pride. Sean's job as the Guardian could be a really lonely one. When his neighbor's niece needed to relocate from her Shiftertown in Colorado, seeking shelter, he offers her his protection. When Sean met her he found a little Lupine Snifter that could look him in the eye. That was the last thing that he had expected. And he had just mate-claimed her.

Half Fea and half wolf Shifter, Andrea Gray had long become acquainted to looking after herself but she needed a new protector in order to escape an unwanted mate-claim. She thought that a Guardian would fit the bill nicely. However, she wasn't expecting the intense attraction that she felt for her rescuer when she first looked into his blue eyes.

Andrea struggles to keep her mating of convenience platonic. Sean plans to turn his mate-claim into the real thing. Will her mixed blood and troubled past, as well as her stubbornness keep him from truly claiming his mate?

Jennifer Ashley truly outdoes herself in this novel. She made me feel hate, sadness, and elation as I read her words. As in the first book in the series, discrimination and prejudice is clearly addressed and challenges the reader to look at a fictional situation and perhaps see the similarities in our own culture. I for one appreciated the way that she addressed the volatile situations as our hero and heroine fought in all ways to be by each others sides. The story easily sweeps us along on Sean and Andrea journey to their HEA. And a HEA is what they get in this awesome and sexy book.

Sophia Triad says

I adore these irish shifters! This time we have the story of Sean, the sword gurdian and Andrea, a half fae half wolf shifter. We also have a glimpse in the Fairie, the land of fae.

This is a highly entertaining book and a great addition to shifters unbound.

I am looking forward to seeing where this series goes and how the shifters will manage to get rid of their collars.

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Review re-posted on Got Fiction?

I got this as an ARC from Jennifer Ashley (who fully rocks!)

In the world Jennifer Ashley built in *Pride Mates*, I went through so many emotions. I loved the characters, and I was pissed at our government for not allowing the Shifters the same rights and freedoms we humans have. In *Primal Bonds*, those feelings intensified. I went through several moments where I was furious that the Shifters couldn't have cell phones, or cable, or computers, let alone the freedoms we enjoy.

But that is one of the best reasons to love this book. The segregation of Shifters being shoved into Shifertowns, the separate drinking fountains, the "we don't serve your kind" comments, this book is so much more than a paranormal romance.

Sean Morrissey is the Guardian. He wields the sword that sends Shifter souls to the Summerlands. And it's a lonely job. When a half fae/half lupine shifter needs out of her Shifertown, the only way is for some male to mate-claim her so no other males can sniff around her. Sean is tired of being lonely. Sean feels that while he may never lack for a bed partner, he has yet to find a woman who wants more than a fun romp. Mate claiming Andrea Gray was the best thing Sean could have ever done.

Andrea has spent her whole life being told she is nothing. Her mother died young, and her step-father loves her to pieces, but he's not very high in his pack, so he doesn't have any say. The Alpha's son Jared is constantly berating Andrea, and smacking her around for any reason he can find. His favorite is that she looks him in the eye. He's an Alpha, she's at the bottom of the pack; she should look down. But Andrea is no submissive wolf. When Jared starts stalking her and leaving her little dead presents, she finally tries her best to leave. She has so much red tape to cut through to get out, since we humans feel the need to take away as much as possible. She can't even drive or fly, she has to ride a bus from Colorado to Texas. But having Sean mate-claim her might get her out of her Shifertown, but it doesn't mean Jared will let her go.

Another thing I loved about this book, is that Sean and Andrea did have tension, and hot sizzling sexual chemistry, but they liked each other. I enjoyed watching them learn to love each other. So often it is "You my mate. We have mate heat. We have The Sex now." This had so much more than just that.

The trials faced were more than just dealing with their budding relationship, an obsessive ex, and the government keeping Shifters down. There were also the Fae. Yep, remember, Andrea's father is fae. But wait, there's more! We also have Shifters mixing things up and humans doing drive-by's. And the Collars. I won't say anything else about them, but remember in *Pride Mates*, they tried to take them off...I'm just sayin'.

And yet, with all of this going on, I was never confused. Jennifer Ashley writes such a smooth and seamless story that anyone will enjoy. And with this book, it's so easy to forget what's going on in real life (like little kids who might need dinner...ahem, or so I've heard, because I would *never* forget to feed my kids). The Shifters Unbound series is on my auto-buy list, and it's a shame I have to wait til next year to get the next installment.

Michelle, the Bookshelf Stalker Queen of the Undead says

Jennifer Ashley is brilliant. No seriously! Let me explain why.

I used to love paranormal romance books. I read everything there was and I sucked up all the stories of love between creatures and love between creatures and humans (ok, that sounds really gross but you get my point right?).

Then I started to see a pattern-

- 1) There must be a hunky alpha male with some type of bad in him or in his past. He's going to be dangerous, but so damn gorgeous, it does not matter how dangerous he is.
- 2) There must be a dumbass female who eventually gains wisdom and understanding via life's trials and tribulations OR she has hunky alpha male (see #1) to save her dumb ass.
- 3) There is a misunderstanding. Usually, this misunderstanding is due to a lack of communication on the dumbass females part. She knows something, doesn't tell hunky alpha male and due to this misunderstanding (usually a secret) there is lots of unneeded danger.

Now, how is this book different?

SEE NUMBER 2!!!! Andrea is not a dumbass female. She's actually quite witty, fun and pretty damn alpha in her personality.

SEE NUMBER 3!!!! Yes, I'm happy to say that Andrea Gray tells Sean the truth. I saw where Jennifer Ashley could have gone with this book. The author could have kept one scene (I can't explain it – it would be a spoiler) that Andrea was in a secret from Sean. Instead, Andrea tells Sean everything. I was like WTF, Andrea doesn't act like a stupid "paranormal romance" chick and keep the secret, she just goes ahead and tells him everything.

There was no major conflict between Andrea and Sean. In fact, the only problems they had between each other was that she was very headstrong. However, Sean actually admired her for that. Instead, the major conflict is the situation they are both in with the Shifertown.

I loved that Jennifer Ashley didn't play it safe. Because of her risks, she makes this book so much more enjoyable!!!!

Catherine says

2.5 Stars

I've finished **Primal Bonds** (obviously) and all I'm left with is a vague 'meh' feeling. It seems like I never

fully engaged with the story. I never really cared about the main characters the way I wanted to and I felt that everything was a bit too pat to really enjoy.

We open the book right in the middle of the action. I usually enjoy this, but here I found it a little confusing. We were introduced to the heroine, Andrea, like we were supposed to know her already so I spent a couple minutes skimming through the previous book, **Pride Mates**, trying to find mention of her. I guess she's completely new, but with how long it had been since I read the first book I thought I had just forgotten about her.

I found it odd to be dropped into the middle of a mate-claim. I know the reasons that were given for it, but I never understood the attraction between them. It was just there and we were supposed to run with it. The accelerated relationship was one of my problems in the last book, but at least I felt the connection there. Here they just seemed to spend a lot of time panting for each other with no real reason.

The distance I felt toward them made most of their relationship feel false. They spent *a lot* of time having sex or thinking about having sex and it almost seemed like a substitute for developing an actual relationship. I didn't hate them, but I found the side characters more interesting.

Speaking of side characters, I'm glad we got more details about Glory and Dylan. I really liked them in the first book so it was nice to see more development there. I was very pleased with Glory for what she did, but I felt it all worked out a bit too quickly in the end. I hope that's not the end of it and that we get to actually see them talk and work out some of their issues in the next book.

I really liked that the author strayed outside of the shifters and introduced us to the Fae. The world, Collars, and Shifertown details were one of my favorite parts of the first book so it was nice to see it expanded here. I thought it was interesting to get to see a shifter's perspective out in the human world and wish we could have seen a bit more of that. There were some things that set Andrea apart because of her Fae heritage and I hope we get more detail on that eventually. I'm curious to hear why it's different for her. <--Yes, that was vague on purpose. :)

The book was a quick read, but I felt like a lot of issues were solved too easily. I never really felt an air of seriousness or worry about the resolution of the problem with the humans and that was echoed in the easy going, joking manner that everyone had. I didn't want conflict for conflict's sake, but it felt like issues were stopped short before they actually got meaty. That goes for Andrea's interactions with a certain mystery guest that kept cropping up as well. It just all was a bit too easy for me.

Favorite Quote:

"Bikinis," he said. "I knew it."

"We're strangely fond of each other's underwear."

"I promise not to wear yours if you don't wear mine."

Review originally posted on Fiction Vixen

