



Alpha Instinct

Katie Reus

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Ana Cordona has been a strong leader for the lupine shifters who survived after all the males and most of the females in her pack were mysteriously poisoned. As tough as she is, with no Alpha male, the pack is vulnerable to the devious shifter Sean Taggart, who wants to claim both their ranch and Ana as his own. When Connor Armstrong comes back into her life, promising protection, it's almost enough to make Ana forget how he walked out on her before--and reluctantly accept his offer to mate.

The minute Connor sees Ana again, it reawakens a raw hunger. He must have her for his bondmate--his wolf cries out for it. But his human side knows he must proceed with caution because of their complicated past. If he is to truly have her body and soul, he must go beyond his burning desire and win back her heart. Whatever it takes, he is determined not to leave her side again. But Taggart and his rival pack are not their only enemies. A human element in town is targeting shifters. Their plan not only threatens Ana and Connor's future, but the lives of the entire pack...

Alpha Instinct Details

Date : Published February 7th 2012 by Signet (first published February 1st 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Katie Reus

Format : Kindle Edition 350 pages

Genre : Romance, Paranormal Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Shapeshifters, Werewolves, Urban Fantasy

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From Reader Review Alpha Instinct for online ebook

Feminista says

Rating: 3 out of 5.

I have been wanting to read this book for ages. But I had the wrong idea in mind.

I thought it was an Urban Fantasy novel. Probably because of the cover of a female. But it is a paranormal romance.

As far as paranormal romances go, this one was pretty average to me. It had it's ups and downs. One of its ups was that, I liked the hero's fidelity to the heroine for all those year.

One of the biggest downs was: I didn't like how submissive the heroine was. She was supposed to be an alpha, even though she isn't an Alpha (yup apparently there is a major difference there with the capital letter). But she didn't show any or much in the way of alpha-like tendencies. There were several times she wanted to argue with the hero, but she ends up letting it go. The hero initially says that theirs would be an equal partnership. But it's as unequal as it gets. She ends up telling him everything, whereas he refuses to let her in on his decisions for the pack and kept secrets from her. He had good intentions apparently, but that still didn't make their relationship any more even.

Honestly, I felt like December, the human bookshop owner, had more fight in her.

Lauren says

Alpha Instinct

3 Stars

The world building is very similar to other series' focusing on wolf shifters (and other supernatural creatures), particularly Jennifer Ashley's **Shifter's Unbound**. This is not necessarily a bad thing, however, the writing is repetitious, the hero and heroine are not particularly likable and the plot is convoluted.

Connor is a sexist jerk even for a dominant Alpha - he claims that he wants Ana as a partner when in reality, he wants a bedmate and little else. He never fully opens up to her and keeps secrets even at the end. When he does eventually let her in, it is very rushed and superficial. The heroine, Ana, is not much better. She is supposed to be a kick-ass Alpha female but is all about finding someone who can "make her feel safe".

The secondary characters are underdeveloped and it is difficult to work up any emotion about them even some are murdered. The villains are one dimensional and predictable.

The plot is comprised of three storylines jumbled together in a confusing mish-mash of shifting POVs from the obnoxious shifter neighbor to the racist, white supremacists and finally, the poisoner bent on destroying Ana and her pack. As individual stories, they each have potential but fail to work as parts of a whole.

All in all, the Moon Shifter world has potential and the secondary couple is interesting enough to read the next book.

Jo says

Reread: 28/03/16

Rating: 4.5 stars

Forgot how much I love this series.

Originally reviewed for and posted at Vampire Book Club

Rating (out of 5): 4 stars

When all the males and pregnant females in the Cordona pack are poisoned, Ana steps up as temporary leader. Though she was born an alpha wolf and can take care of herself, she knows the pack will not last long without a true Alpha to protect them. When Connor Armstrong walks back into her life she has little choice but to accept his offer of protection, particularly with the sadistic neighboring Alpha Taggart breathing down her neck.

Connor comes with a renegade pack of loner wolves, ready to settle and willing to fight for the Cordona pack. Part of Connor's deal with Ana, however, is to become his mate. After having had her heart broken once by him, Ana isn't sure she can recover from that again. When members of the pack start getting sick and human friends being attacked, they realize even with the new additions the threat isn't over. With Taggart hell bent on destroying the new pack and a sinister human hate group, the Anti Paranormal League, determined to cleanse the supernatural community, Ana and Connor must fight to protect those they lead.

I'm a huge werewolf fan and the world Katie Reus has created made me a very happy reader. It's an open world, where the human population has been aware of shifters and vampires for more than 20 years, with varying states of acceptance on both sides of the fence. There is a great sense of layering in this world building, with degrees of intolerance, dominance and even, to a certain extent, love. Though the cover might suggest this is along the urban fantasy vein, I would say this more in the paranormal romance category. It definitely has a lot of action and mystery but the romance between Ana and Connor is pretty central. It isn't a smooth ride though, as you would expect from a romance read.

While Ana has spent the last 50 years doing her best to forget about Connor after he up and left without an explanation, he has been doing everything in his power to become "worthy" of the old Alpha's daughter. This means they enter their reunion at very different points emotionally, best demonstrated by Connor's demand to permanently bond almost immediately. Well, Ana isn't having any of that! She may have to temporarily mate with him to secure the safety of the pack, but she isn't ready to offer her heart (even if he does look damn good without a shirt). Publicly they do very well at presenting a united front, but privately it's a bumpy road with plenty of trust issues, near misses and sexual tension.

Much of the book is told from both Ana and Connor's points of view, but there are other character narratives as well, both from the good and bad side. As a reader I always enjoy being privy to the antagonists plans before they affect the main characters and this book had several. My favorite character has to be Liam, Connor's brother. Funny and sexy, his growing attraction toward a local human woman is a major subplot and I can't wait to see how it pans out in later books.

With a mixture of romance and action I think *Alpha Instinct* will appeal to fans of PNR or UF with a strong romantic thread. Also to anyone who likes sexy werewolves, which to be honest is everyone, right?!

Sexual content: Graphic sex

Tynga says

Ana Cordona, is the pack's Alpha oldest daughter and her life wasn't perfect, but damn close to it, until all the males and pregnant females of her pack died from poisoning. The culprit still hasn't been found and with half her pack decimated, and both her parents dead, she has to stay strong for the females of her pack. It's not easy though, Taggart, the misogynist alpha of the neighboring pack wants her – and her territory- for himself and nothing will stop him. But like it wasn't enough, women are being attacked in town and naturally, suspicion falls on the Shifters.

I've been really excited about Alpha Instinct ever since I first saw the cover, and I have to say, the novel fell a little short for me. It's not that it's bad, because it's not, but I was hoping for something along the lines of Patricia Briggs' Mercy Thompson series or Rachel Vincent's Shifters series and Katie Reus' first novel didn't meet my expectations for a couple of reasons.

First of all, I can see where Reus wanted her characters to be. Ana is suppose to be fierce and strong for her pack. A real Alpha figure. Yet, she came out to me as kind of weak. Yes she is stubborn, yes she wants to protect her pack at all cost, but the way she handled things felt a bit childish at times. I liked Connor though, he left her 50 years ago and came back to protect her when she needed him. He is strong-minded, fierce and commanding – all the right qualities. The interactions between the two though felt off sometimes. He wants her, yet he is very clumsy about it (which is fine, really) and she wants him but she's scared he will leave her again and refuses to see what's right in front of her eyes – he loves her to death. Really, Ana is an ostrich. You'll tell me this a pattern we see often in romance novel, and yes you'd be right, I don't really have anything against the pattern per se but the execution needed I little more polishing I think. On a more positive note, I really liked the relationship between Liam (Connor's little brother) and December (a human female). It felt real and the awkwardness between the two of them was just the sweetest things and I wish we saw more of them.

Another issue I found was how slowly and I'll dare say boringly, the plot progressed. I know it' sounds weird to say the plot was boring, because there is actually a lot going on, what with poisoning, sabotage at the farm, Taggart treats and illegal activities, human females attacked and whatnot but I never felt a trill with the action, the excitement of the chase or fear for one of the characters. All of Katie's ideas were good, but I didn't really feel immersed in the story. I wanted my heart to pound, my palms to sweat and have the urge to throw the book when crap happened, but it just didn't work out.

The third element that baffled me, and it's not the author's fault, is the cover. I was attracted by this strong female image, yet Ana is nothing like it. She is not a badass, she would never wear an outfit like that and her tattoo is also at the wrong place. I know the art department wanted to draw readers to the book – and it worked for me – but it doesn't really reflect to book so it just added to my disappointment.

All that being said, Katie Reus' Moon Shifter series as potential. She sets a world where great things could happen, has great secondary characters and if she can polish the main characters and make the action as real as it gets, then the Moon Shifter could become a great series. A couple of things didn't work for me, but I think you should give it a try. Maybe borrow it from a friend, the library or at least read an excerpt before you buy it because you might like it. I started this novel with high expectations, so maybe it's my own fault I was a bit disappointed. All in all, I don't plan to read the second book unless I read raving reviews about it once it's been released.

Vanessa theJeepDiva says

When readers first meet Ana her pack has been drastically reduced in size by an attack via poisoning. This has left her and her fellow pack mates vulnerable. The poisoning only took the lives of the males, pregnant females, and the mated females who could not go on without their mates. Ana knows that this is a very bad situation to find herself in. She knows that if she goes to the Council for assistance they will just send a male pack her way to take over. She is also getting threats from a neighboring pack Alpha who is all too eager to step in and take over. Taggart is so eager that he actually attacks Ana.

Connor and his brother Liam had lived amongst Ana's pack fifty years ago. After hearing about the poisoning he quickly returns to her with an offer of protection. He has established himself as a strong Alpha to a pack of warriors in his time gone. He can offer her the protection that her pack is in dire need of. This will also allow Connor the opportunity to pursue the woman he walked away from fifty years ago.

Ana and Connor made for an interesting romance. He comes off way too pushy in the beginning giving her doubts about his motives. I loved the chest pounding Neanderthal that Connor could be at times. Those types of Alphas always make for an enjoyable read. Ana's a strong heroine and once she reaches her limit with Connor she shows her own Alpha side.

The main conflict between the humans and the shifters is a very real conflict. The shifters stay away from the human population as much as possible due to hateful discrimination. The humans have known about shifters for twenty years, but most still have negative feelings for that which they do not understand. Of course you have the supremacist types that have taken the hatred to the extreme and have begun attacking. I liked this added conflict to Alpha Instinct. Hate crimes and discrimination are a very real problem. It made connecting with the characters so easy. They are dealing with a threat that could affect anyone, not just the characters in a fictitious book.

Reus sets up several future books for this series. She introduces many characters that have important roles within the pack. Readers get to eagerly wait for the attractions and turmoil to pan out in books to come. I am certainly looking forward to more books in this series. Alpha Instinct has a great mix of action, conflict, and sexual tension of future couples to assure that I will buy the next book as soon as it hits the book store shelves.

Julie says

Posted at Yummy Men & Kick Ass Chicks

Once in a while, there is a book that creates quite a bit of buzz a few months before it's due to release. (Okay, often there is a book that creates some buzz, especially for us bloggers where all you have to do is whisper the words "new book" and we're all a flutter, but let's not focus on that right at this moment.) A little bit back, Alpha Instinct by Katie Reus' cover and blurb was released and people noticed. This book popped up on many tbr lists and on many 'can't wait for' blog posts. After seeing it mentioned a few times, I read the blurb myself and thought this was a book I would enjoy. So I put in my request for it and soon enough I was holding this pretty book in my hands. And sure enough, I was right – this was a book I enjoyed. Unfortunately, it wasn't a book I loved.

The premise of the book is good. There is a pack of shifters who recently suffered a terrible loss. All of the men and all of the pregnant females in the pack have been poisoned and died. This leaves the Alpha's eldest daughter, Ana, to care for the pack and their ranch. After hearing of their troubles, Connor, a super Alpha (no, that is not what he is called but that is what I call him while drooling slightly) finds Ana and offers to be her mate and merge his pack – made up of mostly men and one woman – with Ana's pack. She accepts, at least on a temporary basis because she knows that's what's best for her pack since whoever tried to kill the pack in the first place is still out there.

Quick back-story about Ana and Connor. (Now, keep in mind that shifters age much slower than human's in Katie's world and therefore, even at 100 years old, they still look young and fresh.) Fifty years ago, Connor met Ana. He loved her and she loved him but neither shared their feelings with the other. Then, one day, Connor up and left with no explanation or anything leaving behind a very hurt and a little miffed Ana. She is happy to see him again yet not because how can she trust that he won't leave again. Connor and Ana have incredible chemistry. It jumps off the page. They make a good couple once Connor learns to be less of a 'man' and once Ana learns to speak up a bit. But more on that in a sec.

Being an Alpha, I expected Ana to be a stronger character. Yes, she has seen terrible loss lately, and even more in this book, but she's just like a normal girl! No, that is not necessarily a bad thing; it's just not what I would have expected from an Alpha. She starts off spunky, but that slowly fades. It's explained how men are 'real' alphas and she's just almost an interim leader, but again, I just expected her to be more.

Connor was what you expect an Alpha to be. Strong, sexy, yummy and such a man, it's unbelievable. He hides things from Ana thinking that it's what is best for her but really, it's not. He just ends up looking like a man who hides things. See? Such a man thing to do. Of course, that causes friction between Ana and Connor and doesn't help Connor's cause. He wants Ana to believe that he truly loves her and that he's not going anywhere.

The rest of the pack is fine, the men more interesting than the women in my opinion. I really liked Connor's brother Liam. His is the next book and I'm debating whether or not I'm going to pick it up because I see tons of potential in him and December, his HEA to be. December's brother is the sheriff and he's not a fan of shifters. That part of their story may prove to be a tad annoying, but we'll see.

What didn't work for me, other than the characters being okay but not fantastic, is that there was just too much going on. I found it very difficult to invest myself fully in one storyline because as soon as I started getting interested, it bounced to another. And there are a couple stories I didn't really see why they were there. Yes, they showed how shifters 'take care' of things, but I think the story would have worked well even without those plot lines in them. There was the Connor and Ana story, there was a story involving Taggart – the neighbour pack leader and all out arse-hole, there was the anti-paranormal group plotline, there was the "who is killing the shifters?" storyline (that one was very good), there was the 'why did Connor leave' mystery (that ended up not being that dramatic after all), there is the Sheriff who is anti-shifter and the Dream-walker... Just a little much for my taste. If it were a little more streamlined, it would have been better for me.

Overall, this was a good book, but not great. The world is interesting and the men shifters are strong. If you like a story with lots of sub-stories to keep you interested, then I would recommend this book. As for me, I think I'll wait until the blurb is released for the second book before deciding whether or not to continue with this series. I have a feeling that the anti-paranormal group is going to be playing a bigger role in books to come and I'm not sure I want to read about a hate-group that is constantly going to be trying to get rid of shifters. If they are not going to make a big appearance, then I'll consider it, because, as I said, Liam and December intrigue me and I wouldn't mind seeing how Ana and Connor end up after this book's 'the end'.

Katie Michaels says

Ana has been serving as Alpha of her pack ever since someone killed off all the men and pregnant females. But she knows she won't be able to keep the job for long. Werewolves respect physical strength and even though she is a good leader, she would lose to a strong male in a fight. Her neighbor, Taggart, is already sniffing around, making it clear he wants her as a mate. So when Connor and his pack come with an offer to join Ana and her wolves, she barely hesitates to say yes.

Connor and his brother stayed with her pack many years ago. She had loved him and hoped he felt the same, until one day he just disappeared. Now that he's back, he offers no explanation for what happened, but it's clear that whatever they felt for each other before --never went away. Ana struggles with her attraction to Connor, fearing that one day he may leave again. And he only makes matters worse by refusing to open up to her.

All the relationship drama takes place amidst the backdrop of a killer targeting the pack. Whoever poisoned the men months ago is back and is picking off the surviving women one at a time. Is it Taggart? The bigots of the Anti-Paranormal League? Or is it someone else altogether? Ana and Connor need to get their act together and figure it out before any more wolves are killed.

I liked the premise, but I had some issues with the romance. My biggest problem was with Connor. He sabotaged things between himself and Ana over and over again by his unwillingness to open up to her and share in the decision-making. I know he's alpha of the pack now, but he promised her a partnership that he never delivered on. He hurt her terribly when he left and I understand why, but he never tried to make it up to her... unless you count sex as a way to do that. Granted, the sex was good, but it wasn't enough to make up for his poor judgement. Over and over, he lies or hides the truth or excludes her or orders her around and it frankly got old for me. I believed in his love for her, but it was frustrating to read. Frankly, I found myself much more interested in the secondary love story forming between Connor's brother Liam and his human mate.

I felt like there was a fair amount of repetition in the book, which grated a little. So did the feeling that the females were second class citizens to the men. I know this is often a reoccurring theme in books surrounding werewolf culture, but even our "good-guy" wolves perpetuated the stereotype.

There were things I did like. The sex was good. The villain reveal was unpredictable. I'm interested in Matt, the Native American dreamwalker. And I enjoyed little glimpses of the romances between Liam and December as well as Noah and Erin. And, well, who doesn't love a baby jaguar?

I wish this book had been a bigger hit for me, since I like Katie Reus and have enjoyed some of her other work. I think it's more that this particular relationship didn't work for me. I will give the series another try when the next book comes out. 3 stars.

**ARC Provided by Signet*

Crystal ♥ RBtWBC says

4.5 Stars

Alpha Instinct is a wolfishly sexy read that will leave you howling for more!

Ana Cordona is the Alpha of the Cordona pack after all the males and pregnant females were mysteriously poisoned, and though her pack respects her leadership, Ana knows that she won't be able to hold it for long. With no Alpha male to lead, her pack is easy pickings for the more aggressive males of the breed and vulnerable to take over. Ana's neighboring Alpha, Taggart, has already proven what lengths a wolf will go to to claim her, her pack and her lands.

When Connor Armstrong walks back into Ana's life offering much-needed protection Ana would be a fool to turn him away, despite how he walked away from her fifty years ago breaking her heart in the process. But can she accept the terms he has set in exchange? Because Connor wants more from the beautiful she-wolf than just her pack, he wants all of Ana – body, mind and soul.

The stakes are high but they soon turn deadly when more shifters turn up dead and humans are thrown into the mix. Who is trying to destroy Ana's pack and can Connor protect them? Or will he lose in more than the game of love?

I absolutely loved Alpha Instinct. So much so, my poor book is looking rather abused from carting it everywhere I went while reading. It felt like a crime to put this down for even a minute!

Author Katie Reus is a wickedly talented writer, providing vivid details giving depth to not just the amazing characters but the world that she has created around them as well. Ana was an intriguing leading lady; she is tough but also sensitive, caring and protective towards her family and pack. Her feelings towards Connor are complicated; there is still that spark of attraction between them but she is weary of letting her feelings deepen for him because of their past. The sexual tension between Connor and Ana is palpable from the pages and a rather frustrating journey until they finally give in. But that didn't mean their problems were solved, Ana and Connor's ride was full of pot holes and I believe that makes them more relatable to the reader. Connor was a sexy hero with a hint of a Scottish brogue which was super hot. He's extremely protective and comes off as pushy at first but as you read along you understand his reasoning's. The story grows right along with the characters.

Mystery and suspense is woven into the romance with three nasty villains, one of whom is an unknown until the very end. The story builds and builds, with plenty of twists and turns, until it reaches a heart pounding climax that will keep you turning the pages. There were also some heart breaking moments that caused my allergies to act up (lol) and the secondary characters were all enamoring. I especially enjoyed the sub plot and romance of Connor's brother, Liam, whose story will continue into the second novel, Primal Possession (September 2012). My only complaint for the novel would be the repetitiveness when it came to describing a few character traits, a minor issue really in such a great story.

Alpha Instinct is a promising start to the Moon Shifter series and I am eagerly anticipating the next installment!

Jennifer says

I wanted to like this one, but couldn't really get into it. As other reviewers have stated, this is not really urban fantasy since it definitely lacks the world building details associated with that genre. It's paranormal fantasy, for sure, and therein lies its downfall. Neither element, the paranormal nor the romance, was all that compelling. The beginning grabbed my attention right away, but the story fizzled out and devolved into a lot of telling (repetitively) and not enough showing.

Dija says

Alpha Instinct has all the elements that make up a typical urban fantasy novel:

1. An Alpha hero and an alpha heroine as main characters (which basically means that both are strong-willed, stubborn creatures, with the only difference in their rank being that the heroine decides the course of action and the hero executes it).
2. The main couple have been together in the past, but one of them broke it off due to unspecified reasons. Of course, ten years down the lane, their paths cross and they're still as passionately in love as they were a decade back.
3. If the UF novel in question is on Shifters, there's an 85% chance that the plot will revolve around random killings of said creatures, perpetrated by none other than the evil villain that wants to marry the alpha heroine.
4. A Claiming, Mating, or Imprinting, of some sort between the H&h near the beginning of the book that removes all doubts about their compatibility because nature works in mysterious yet wise ways.
5. Either of the protagonists having a near-death experience towards the end which results in both of them getting over all their issues and concerns and living HEA.

That said, Alpha Instinct is still an immensely entertaining and fun read for hardcore paranormal fans. But if, like me, you're beginning to tire of reading the same story with a few alterations over and over every time you pick up a new UF series to read, I doubt you'll enjoy this.

For more reviews, visit my blog.

Carla-Book Monster Reviews says

Alpha Instinct is the first book in Katie Reus' MOON SHIFTER series and a great beginning to a new series.

Ana Cordova is the Alpha of the now all female Cordova pack since the pack members were poisoned and all the males in the pack dies, along with all the pregnant females shifters. Her father and intended mate were also amongst the victims of the poisoning. Now Anna is trying to protect the rest of her pack and make sure her sisters and cousins are safe, which is becoming harder and harder by the day. Sean Taggart, the pack Alpha living on the land next to Anna's wants to take over Anna's pack and claim Anna as his mate. Only problem is he's a drug dealing lunatic and willing to do anything to claim Anna. Right when he's about to attack Anna, Connor and Liam Armstrong swoop in to save her. And boy is Anna shocked to see him. He left her 50 years ago without a word and broke her heart.

Connor Armstrong has known Anna was his mate ever since he laid eyes on her the first time. He's suffered the last 50 years without her and now that he found out that all the males in Anna's pack dies and she's unprotected, he will do anything to protect her. Even offer her protection and the safety of him as the new Alpha of her pack. If, she agree to be his mate. He knows he's going to have to work at regaining Anna's trust but he's willing to do whatever he has to to make her love him again. But the problems are much more than Connor knew. Someone is still trying to take out Anna and her pack and won't stop until every last member of the Cordova pack is dead.

I really enjoyed this book. Anna is a strong female heroine that will do anything to protect her family. She's loved Connor for years and was brokenhearted when he left her. Now that he's back she willing to mate him to save her family but she plans to keep her out out of it. Yeah right!

Connor is the epitome of the male Alpha wolf. He's strong, dominant protective of his pack.

I also loved Connor's brother Liam. His story was secondary is this book as he finds his mate, a human named December. Connor is trying to get to know December but she is weary of Liam. She is drawn to him but scared because her father was murdered by a feral wold shifter. It's only her and her brother, who also

happens to be the sheriff in town. And her brother wants no one near his sister, especially a shifter. But now that a gang of human activists that hate shifters has targeted December, its going to take more than her brother to help protect her.

I am looking forward to the second book in the series, "Primal Possession" which will be a full length novel and the story of Liam and December and is scheduled to be released on September 4 2012.

There is also an enovella, "Lover's Instinct" scheduled to release in August 2012.

I can't wait to read more about the other members in Connor's pack that were introduced as well.

I give Alpha Instinct 4 out of 5 stars.

Wendy Darling says

Definitely more PNR than UF. Even so, this is not bad, but not really something I got too excited about. My guess is that my friends who read more PNR than I do will probably like it more than I did.

Mara says

1 or 2 stars

While reading I couldn't decide whether I didn't like this novel at all or if it was a meh read only. Then I finished and thought about it.

This novel has only a light world-building and what it is there is fucked up. Sexism wins the day. Women and men are separated and only a lip-service is given to this (when the heroine whines about it). But basically all the plot is based on women being and doing separate things, you know, like cooking vs checking the border. Oh, and being weaker of course ...*shudder*

You expect a kick ass alpha and you get a whiner. And the funny thing? Both male and female alphas are. By the way he's not alpha, he is simply a jerk.

Last, but not least, I didn't like the "racism" in the story nor the do-it-yourself "justice". The bad guys are (of course) neo-nazis who hate shifters. The problem is: shifters want to stay the hell away from humans. They might not hate normals, but sure as hell they do not love them (or have a problem dealing with). And I found this terribly horrible to read in a novel. Given that there's no explanation in the story for this (Middle Age hate for Others, human spite, you name it), it gave me the creeps.

Same for the vendetta Connors takes against the men who attacks Ana (or Liam when December is attacked). He doesn't believe in human justice (well, it seems to me that the author doesn't - given what she writes on the argument), but goes for the jugular. The problem is law is what makes us different from unthinking creatures (I don't say animals, because they do not need law, as they have no crimes.)

If you prefer I could say (and it might be true) that these are my sensibilities and I read the novel this way because I wasn't swept by the writing. Whether my assessment is real or my imagination, overall, I found the underlining messages scary. I didn't enjoy reading it.

(I wonder if it would have got a better review, had I not read the my immortals series just recently.)

Janina says

Ana, who survived with some of the female members of her pack after the males and pregnant females were poisoned and killed, now has to try to survive with no Alpha Male. But not only that, she also has to watch out for the devious Alpha Male Taggart, who wants to claim Ana by force and take her ranch. When Conner Armstrong backs up, he offers her a chance to become his mate and protect her from the coming dangers. Taggart is not the pack's only problem, humans are targeting shifters, which may threaten Conner and Ana's relationship and the lives of their pack.

I received this book via Netgalley.com. I loved this book. It contained all the elements I look forward to in a book. The characters were amazing and so was the plot.

Ana and Conner deserve five thumbs up! I loved their relationship. I loved the fact that when they reunited, they didn't automatically just fall into the I love you's, even though they loved each other in the past. I could understand Ana's attitude and how she felt about the situation with their past. I was like Conner, would you tell her already. If you're talking to a book you know you like it. I like how Conner was caring and protective of not just Ana but everyone in the pack.

Another thing I loved about Ana and Conner, is when they connected in the most intimate of ways, that those scenes in the book were not rushed. You could feel the connection that they have with each other as you read it and that is a major plus!

Liam and December was a great side romance you get to experience. I thought it was a great idea. I really like Liam, he and Conner act so much alike and don't even realize it. And the cubs were too adorable! Vivian was an added splash of sunshine to the book. I really like her. But you didn't see too much of the boy cub. I hope he gets more moments in the next book.

Taggart, I don't like. He was an jerk. Those type of people I cannot stand. But his character made for a great bad guy. You just knew he was always up to no good, always plotting. I want to know more about this "Enforcer" guy also. He seems interesting.....

The action was great. Not as much as I'm used to but just enough to satisfy my hunger for it. When the action happens, sometimes it's so unexpected. For example, when Ana and Vivian was in the car....I was like, what? Surprised me.

The ending, shocked the mess out of me. I so did not see that one coming!!! Even the reactions of the pack shocked me. Oh, and there was some unfortunate events in this book that I did not like. Like some deaths and I will not name names, but just know Katie Reus that I am not happy with one of those.

But overall, the book was amazing. A page turner with great romance that will make you blush and some action that will have you on edge. For all you paranormal romance lovers, you should check out this book!

Rebecca says

Y'all know I love a good shifter story. Alpha Instinct is the first book in the Moon Shifter series and I enjoyed reading it.

Ana Cordona has been taking care of her pack ever since her father, their pack leader, and all the other men in the pack died of poisoning. I liked Ana's character for the most part. I felt for Ana, she has had to hold up her pack and stay strong for them through her parent's deaths. Being a pack alpha is not what Ana was made to do, but she will do whatever it takes to keep her pack together. For that reason she is too scared to go to the council for help, because she is fearful of what they will do with the pack.

While Ana is being attacked by her neighbor Taggart, she is saved by Connor and his brother Liam. Connor and Liam had lived amongst Ana's pack fifty years ago. I liked Connor. He came into Ana's pack with all these ideas, then he sees her and totally messes it up by making demands of her. He is very much an alpha but not so much so that when he makes a mistake he can't admit he is wrong, and I liked that.

Ana and Connor had great chemistry together. Yes, they followed the PNR formula and that didn't bother me. The sexual tension between them was great. The thing that I didn't really care for was how much non-talking was going on between them about their past. It got to the point of being annoying.

Connor's brother Liam had a little side story going with the town sheriff's sister. OK, I am just going to be honest with you here. I think I was a little more into Liam and December's story than the main one between Anna and Connor. Maybe it had something to do with the fact that December is a human and that is a big faux pass in the shifter world.

"I'm Liam Armstrong"

She chewed on her bottom lip and devouring it. Liam wasn't sure what had come over him when it hit him. Mate.

He jerked back at the word and tried to reject it. No. Impossible. She was human. That he was sure of.

Mate.

There it went again. The word resounded in his head so loudly he was surprised she hadn't heard it.

...

"I'm still waiting on your answer. And your name."

"I haven't decided, but my name is December McIntyre."

"I knew you were a Scottish lassie." Over the past century he'd learned to cover up his brogue, but he laid it on thick at the moment, hoping it would earn him a smile. He wasn't disappointed.

There was a lot going on in Alpha Instinct I didn't really know were to rest my attention. For example: You know I am a big fan of having a great villain to hate if there is a villain in the story. There were so many villains I didn't have anyone to blame all the bad on, so I just sort of disliked a bunch of people...it was a bummer.

I enjoyed Alpha Instinct overall. I really liked the way Katie Reus described the town—it is very charming. I hope to see more of it in book two since that book will focus more on December and Liam. I look forward to reading it when it comes out in September.

Happy Reading,

Rebecca

www.bendingthespine.blogspot.com

