



## Winter Eve

*Lia Davis*

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There comes a time when setting your differences aside isn't just necessary, it's a means of survival. After losing over half of their dens to a group rogue shifters, the wolves and leopards merged as one Pack, but living together is much more of a challenge than they expected.

Danica Welsh was born to be the leopard pack healer. An accident involving a drug induced youth left her badly burned and scared—emotionally and physically. Without the ability to heal by touch, she secludes herself to the edge of town, away from Ashwood Falls' overly concerned citizens. All hope of mating and family become a distant dream. When she finally starts to accept the long, lonely existence ahead of her, a stranger crashes into her life, and her heart.

After Nevan Mathews' fiancé died three ago, he submerged himself into his work, cutting off all reminders of a life he dreamed of with the woman he loved. He lets his step-mother talk him into taking the first vacation in five years to visit for the holidays. But an accident delays his travel plans, sending him to Danica's doorstep and raises a need he thought he would never feel again.

Can they tear down the walls around their hearts and submit to the passion before another claims Dani for his own?

Warning: Contains a shifter who's scars run deeper than skin, a human who has the heart of a shifter, and a snow storm that's sure to have them both reaching for warmth.

## Winter Eve Details

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Author : Lia Davis

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## From Reader Review Winter Eve for online ebook

### Mariann {at} Belle's Book Bag says

I LOVE shifter romances and I LOVE stories with wounded or "imperfect" heroes and/or heroines and their struggle to find love and a HEA despite those imperfections. So Winter Eve appealed so much to me as it featured a heroine who was both scarred and a shifter. I couldn't wait to read!! This is another cover that I just absolutely loved.

Winter Eve was a quick easy story with likable characters that was a good start to the series. Danica and Nevin were so cute together and I liked how he was able to see past her scars. I also liked that even though Nevin was human, he had a special gift of his own and he was also able to fit in and function so well in the pack due to growing up with brothers that were shifters. I'm definitely interested in what happens in the next book. There were so many secondary characters that I'm hoping get books of their own. I liked the fact that some of the shifters possess special gifts besides being able to shift. And I also liked the back and forth banter between Blaine and Shayna~so funny and exactly like brothers and sisters. Oh...and I especially want to read more about Cameron and Blaine.

Winter Eve was an enjoyable read with a lot of potential for the series. This was the first time that I had read anything from Lia Davis and I am definitely looking forward to reading more from her. 3 out of 5 rating!

\*\*\*ARC provided by Lia Davis~Thank you so much!! :)

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### Tricia Kristufek says

*"You're being lead away by a cat, like Alice and that damn rabbit..."*

Danica just wants to be left alone, without the pity and sorrow her folk look at her with. But when she darts in front of Nevan's car and leads him back to her house, alone is suddenly the last thing she wants to be anymore.

As this is a precursor to the actual Ashwood Falls series, it sets up the characters well, showing the depth of Dani's scars and how Nev's strange upbringing can help. Though short, readers can get an idea of what will follow, setting the stage for a unique blend of were/human interactions.

Winter Eve challenges readers to see the "pack" differently, to go beyond the scars (both inside and out), and to be true to your inner animal.

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### Rhonda says

I have read a lot about the author Lia Davis. Today I read the blurb for her new release. I couldn't wait to read so I bought it and read it immediately. Well, I couldn't put it down and now am impatiently waiting for the first book, A Tiger's Claim, which releases in April of 2013. Uhhhh! This is why I don't start series until they are like 5 books in.

Danica, a leopard shapeshifter was born to be a pack healer. After an accident where the right side of her

body was badly burned and scarred, she was left without the ability to heal by touch. Danica was a very loving woman. I loved that she was insecure, but in the end trusted Nevan enough to give them a chance.

Nevan, a human, lost his father four years ago and his fiancé a year later. He buried himself in his work and avoided his stepmom and brothers. On his way to visit them for Christmas, he wrecks his car avoiding a leopard, which led him to Danica's door. I felt the author portrayed how someone would really act after losing a fiancé. He suffered from guilt and Danica helped him deal with it.

The fact that the couple work through some tough insecurities so quickly together, shows me that this couple will last. Of course, them being true mates helps. I can't wait for Tiger's Claim.

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### **Debra Taylor says**

This short novella is actually a prequel to an upcoming new shifter series from Lia Davis. I have a particular weakness for shifter romance ( it is my opinion that it should be in a genre all it's own) so I gleefully snatched this one up right away. I'm so glad that I did because it was a fantastic start to what is going to be an awesome series.

Nevan has distanced himself from his family after the loss of both his wife and his father within the same year. He is finally on his way home to visit his family for Christmas when he crashes his car while trying to avoid a leopard. The accident leads him straight to Danica's door. Danica is a leopard shifter who caused Nevan to crash the car. She invites the human into her home giving him refuge from an approaching snowstorm. Nevan is aware of the existence of shifters because his stepmom and brothers are mountain lion shifters. So he notices right away that something is different about Danica and her friends. Danica was born to be a healer before she was badly burned in an accident that took away her ability to heal through touch. Just as Nevan has withdrawn from his family , Danica has distanced herself from her friends and family too. She is uncomfortable with the pity she knows they feel for her loss and for the extensive scarring she has been left with. But Nevan isn't the only contender for the beautiful Danica's hand. A challenge is issued ...one that Nevan is determined to win. The situation gets even more dangerous when outside forces intervene in the challenge for Danica's hand.

Nevan and Danica were two wounded souls who found out that they were meant to be together. I liked that they were both vulnerable. Danica was insecure because of her scars. And Nevan had to cope with the guilt of loving someone else after the loss of his beloved wife. I thought that author did a god job with portraying those issues. She also did an outstanding job with laying the background for this new series. I was especially grateful that she was able to accomplish such an indepth exploration of the pack dynamics without taking the focus away from the lead couple's love story.

I'd highly recommend this story . Although it is a prequel for the upcoming series it can still stand on it's own for readers who aren't ready to delve into a series just yet. As for myself , Winter Eve has gotten me excited about the new series. I can't wait for the next book to be released. I'll give this one four stars.

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### **Holly Full Moon Bites Book Reviews says**

I really enjoyed this short prequel by Lia Davis. Winter Eve introduces us to key characters in the town, future books and of the actual town of Ashwood Falls and shifter world.

This was a really quick read, it flew by, but it was also a wonderful introduction to the series and characters with a romance that really warmed both the heart and body temperature. Just what you need on a cold night!

I would highly recommend Winter Eve to anyone looking for a good paranormal romance read. I cannot wait to read book one A Tiger's Claim!

*\*I received a hardcover/paperback/eBook copy/ARC of this book for free to review from the author/publisher/tour site; this in no way influenced my review, all opinions are 100% honest and my own.*

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## **BBMoreB ~ says**

Lia has crafted an analogous world that includes many great characters (and lucky for us readers -- future stories)! In a genre flooded with an ever increasing number of formulated tales – it was refreshing to read this touching love story. The author put just the right amount of sentiment, sensuality and steamy sex into this prequel to ensure that the Ashwood Falls series will have a very promising future.

*Disclosure: This ebook was provided to me free of charge by Lia Davis for the sole purpose of an honest review. All thoughts, comments, and ratings are my own.*

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## **Marsha Spohn says**

First reviewed at Haunted Bookshelf

Danica lived on the outskirts of the town of Ashwood Falls. Her cabin was her sanctuary. Even as a healer for the Pack and a leopard shifter, Dani often felt alone even in the midst of her friends and pack. Years before Dani had been burned on the right side of her body trying to talk down a drug crazed youth. One moment she was fine and dealing with the young man, the next she was engulfed. The burns limited her healing abilities since she was a touch healer, so although she could still heal she didn't feel adequate as the only healer for her pack.

In the days approaching Christmas Nevan was making his way up the mountain to visit with his step-mother, Sarah and his four step-brothers. Nevan had grown up in these mountains, yet after his father's death he simply had to get away. Even though the years had passed, his love for his family and their home was strong. Nevan was a healer himself, healing not bodies normally but damaged minds. Lately his own mind had been filled with the loss of his father and then of the woman he was to marry. Their deaths weighed heavily on him to this very day.

With his mind still somewhat in the past, it wasn't too surprising to find he flinched and swerved the steering wheel when a large shape darted in front of the car. He crashed into the side of the mountain. Thankfully only his rental car was damaged and as he turned to look for the animal who caused this wreck he caught the moonlight reflection from the large cat's eyes just yards away from him. Leopard. As the cat stood and

started walking toward the cabin, Nev watched. When the cat looked over it's shoulder, slowed and then started moving again he took it as an invitation to follow.

As I mentioned earlier, Nevan had grown up in these mountains, his family's pack lived further up the mountain. He was human, but he had lived with mountain lion shifters for most of his life. Seeing the human in the leopard's eyes wasn't a stretch by any means for him. Now with the hopes that he wasn't to become some large cat's dinner, he headed for the cabin – only to be greeted by the most beautiful woman he had ever seen, Danica.

We are introduced to some of the members of the leopard and wolf pack of Ashwood Falls. Friends, the alpha leader and very distrustful males. In time Dani and Nevan will find their way to each other physically, sensuously as Dani realized that Nevan is her true mate. And of course there is the usual male chest thumping of the males of the pack, putting down the mere human. But when push comes to shove, Nev will do anything needed to gain Dani's love and the acceptance of her pack.

Winter Eve is the introductory prequel to the series of Ashwood Falls. While we have met a few of the citizens, there are many more to yet encounter. This promises to be an interesting, entertaining and addictive series for any shifter book lover, like me. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and learn their stories as well.

Highly recommend this series – the prequel sets up the beginning of a very interesting series. If you love paranormal romances with shifters as the main characters, then you have found the perfect series for you.

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### **Victoria says**

Short, but not bad. Really interested to see who gets the next story in the series

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### **Delphina says**

I recently discovered Lia Davis and this is the third book I have read by her. It is my favorite, so far. I have a weakness for all things shifter, so when I saw this I knew I had to read it. This is actually the prequel to her upcoming shifter series and it does a beautiful job laying the background for a new series. I was able to explore the lore she is using and to see some of the dynamics of the pack she will be focusing on. The love story was very heartwarming. Seeing a shifter that was not all "perfect" physically and the struggles she faced coming to terms with that "imperfection" brought this story from a typical shifter book to something more. I am so excited to see where this series goes. This was a complete story in and of itself, so you do not have to worry about committing to a new series if you are just looking for some fun shifters for your afternoon read.

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### **Alyson LaBarge says**

Just finished this last night and I LOVED it!

This is the prequel to A Tiger's Claim (Ashwood Falls) although it is not mandatory to read prior to reading A Tiger's Claim (Ashwood Falls). This novella is basically focused on Danica and Nevin and their newly

found relationship. Danica is the Pack's Healer, a revered position to hold. Sadly she was burned several years back and has never been the same since. Nevin suffered two huge losses in his life, one on top of the other and has yet to recover from the grief. Then Danica and Nevin meet. ;)

I loved both the hero and heroine. Lia made them realistic, flawed, hurting, compassionate and really, really hot. The secondary characters could have made life very difficult for them but they both had inner reserves they needed to draw upon and see if they could soothe and smooth the way. The story sped by, page after page and I could not wait to see what was next. There was a mystery that was left unsolved, just waiting for another story to be written. Relationship-wise however, things were resolved in a way that made it abundantly clear that there would be a HEA. Ahhh, my favorite kind of story. ;)

#### ***4 Stars, 2 Flames!***

\*Note: I received this book in exchange for my honest and unbiased review. All opinions are 100% my own.

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### **Julie Ramsey says**

#### Winters Eve

Danica is a healer for her shifter community. She was scared in a fire and has lost some of her abilities. Depressed, she decides to live alone. Her alpha keeps an eye on her but is always worried and has his enforcers go by her home. She goes out for a run and runs across the road, and is almost hit by a car. The man in the car swerves to miss her and hits the rock wall. Nevan is not hurt but his car is totaled. He sees an animal and follows it. Leading him to a house in the woods, where he meets Danica. To him Danica is the most beautiful woman he has ever seen. He sees the few scars and doesn't care. Danica believes she is about to bring Nevan into a world he has no clue of. Nevan knows something is up. He was raised among mountain lion shifters and is no stranger to the paranormal. They both know they have meet someone special, now they just have to prove it to the rest of Danica's pack.

This novella was a great start to what I think will be a awesome series. The packs are together but have an evil group out to concur and destroy what they all will fight to protect. Danica has been hurting for so long that, when she meets Nevan, it is like a breath of fresh air. Someone that treats her like she is an equal and looks beyond the scars. I can't wait to read more of the series and see what Lia will bring. Thanks for the great read!

[juliesbookreview.blogspot.com](http://juliesbookreview.blogspot.com)

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### **Theresa says**

Great introduction to Ashwood Falls. This was a great short story to get you pumped up for the Ashwood Falls series. I felt as though I was watching the scene unfold before my eyes as Lia told this awesome romantic shifter story. Ashwood Falls 101: Here are some facts to get you better acquainted. Ashwood Falls is a small Smokey Mountain town with a mixed pack - half wolf and half cat. Both packs were attacked over 200 years ago and over half of each pack was wiped out. They discovered together they could survive. In this pre-quel we meet several characters: Keegan (the pack alpha) and his children: Blaine, Shay and Danica - there could be more. The pack lawyer, Jared, and several enforcers: Cameron, Hayden, and Dane. The pre-quel focus around Danica's story. She is over 200 years old and lives in a cabin far from others. In this story

we learn more about the accident that made her flee town and she finds her mate. Someone who also has an interested background. Want to know who her mate is? Read this story and you'll find out. And don't miss A Tiger's Claim coming Spring 2013.

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### **The Book Queen says**

Eh. It's not that the novella was written poorly, but rather it was just so . . . average. I flipped the pages and finished reading in an hour, but nothing about the story stuck, and I didn't connect with any of the characters or the InstaLove.

It's possible I may try the rest of the series someday, as I realize this was meant to be just a prequel (though I couldn't see anything it really revealed).

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### **Emily says**

Nevan Matthews isn't overly excited about his trip, but having lost his fiancée he knows the importance of being with family. He did not expect to crash his car and find himself getting help from a beautiful woman. Stranded with no phone and a storm looming, Nevan is intrigued by Danica a leopard shifter, for the first time in a long time Nevan is attracted to another woman.

Danica, a healer whose intervention with a drug induced teen ended with her being scarred and unable to heal others has withdrawn from her pack seeking solace. Nevan ignites dormant feelings, but Danica's insecurities have her reluctant to see what is truly there. Besides Nevan is human, but what Danica doesn't realize is there is more to Nevan than she knows.

Fast paced story, I thought this was highly creative especially the premise. Both Nevan and Danica are resistant initially but the reasons why are so thoughtfully laid out you feel connected with the characters. This was the first book of Lia Davis I have read and I can't wait to read more. I am always searching for shifter stories and luckily I have found another one to enjoy.

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### **Nancy (The Avid Reader) says**

The following review is my opinion and not a paid review. I was given a free copy of the book from the author for my honest opinion.

Nevan Mathews' fiancé died three years ago and since that time he has hidden himself in his work. He hasn't been home in five years so he lets his step-mother talk him into coming home on vacation. Nevan loves his step-mother and his step-brothers but has not been able to visit them since his father's death. On his way to visit his family Nevan has an accident and runs his car off the road. His car is damaged to the point where he can't drive it and is left stranded.

Danica Welsh is a shapeshifter who was in an accident several years ago that left burned and scared. Danica has lost all hope of ever finding someone to love her. She moves on the edge of the town of Ashwood Falls' hiding away in her own little world. One night she goes out for a stroll after shifting into a leopard. With her mind far away in la-la land Danica runs across the road in front of a vehicle causing it to run off the road.

Danica gets the guy to follow her home. What choice does she have it is her fault that he ran off the road and is now stranded. She can't leave him out there in the snow he would freeze to death.

Danica and Nevan are attracted to each other but can they put aside all the things that they have been through in their lives and learn to trust and love again? After seeing how much Danica and Nevan care for one another a member of Danica's pack, Jarred asked the pack's leader for Danica's hand in marriage. Danica doesn't want anything to do with him because he does not love her and nor does she love him. Will Danica have a choice in who she wants to spend the rest of her life with? Or will the pack leader make this choice for her? Can Nevan win Danica for his own?

*Winter Eve* is a short read but if you like shapeshifter stories then I think you would also like *Winter Eve*. Although it is a short story it is a good read. *Winter Eve* introduces you to the characters in the new series *Ashwood Falls*.

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### **Eva Millien says**

The first book in the *Ashwood Falls* series takes place in an enchanting community of shapeshifters that captivate the reader.

Nevan is a human on the way to visit his step family for the holidays when he wrecks his car. Danica is a leopard that shies away from people, but she lets Nevan stay in her home during the snow storm. The attraction between the two burns hot and their romance grows but when Danica is attacked by rogues, another tries to claim his mate. The suspense builds as the two must compete against each other for Danica and then is another attack by the rogues.

The author has created a great shapeshifter world full of action, romance and magic with strong, magical characters that draw the reader into the story and leaves the reader wanting more. The first book is a delightful, short read that I found to be very entertaining and I am looking forward to reading more in this series.

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### **Future Slayer Girl says**

*Winter Eve* is a warm short read that introduces us to the series *Ashwood Falls*; a town in which shifters thrive and follow their own set of rules. With some sexy men and independent strong women that I loved we follow the romance of Danica and Nevan. I have to be honest, I really struggled to rate this story. I am struggling now to review it. Although, I really loved the world building in this story, and all the character surrounding the lead two, I didn't totally connect with Danica and Nevan. I really wanted to care if they fell in love and ended up together, I just didn't. As character they were written well, as a match they fell slightly short in the connection part for me. Lia is a solid writer that made me believe that this town existed in the beautiful snow covered region of America, but I really fought to want these two to be together. Nevan was a conflicted character that had grown up with shifters, and therefore was acceptable for Danica to mate with. However, toss in an angry shifter that wants to 'take care of her', you have your conflict. I think I liked Jared more. He was pure male aggression and he knew what he wanted. With a woman that brings him to his knees he would make one heck of a book! I really want to continue the *Ashwood Falls* series. The other character made me curious and made me want some more, a full length book where the main characters have more time to find a romance that was true and honest. I recommend *Winter Eve* to those that love their shifter

books!

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### **April says**

What a great start for the series! It is a quick read but Ms Davis really packs it in there!! You get Dani and Nev's romance, a glimpse at several other characters who are in the next books and a really great look at the world she has created.

Dani is a great character and I liked that she did not wallow in self pity, she showed real strength. And Nev is a perfect match for her!! He also showed that he is strong enough as a human to handle a shifter mate.

I would have liked just a bit more about Dani's life pre-fire and perhaps a bit more about how the fire actually happened. But other than that is a great setup of things to come! So many intriguing thread were hinted at and I am so excited to jump straight into Shay's story next!! She is a real spitfire!

The steam factor here is surprisingly high. For such a quick read you get some serious hot and heavy action several times!! Yummilicious!!!

\*Disclosure: This ebook was provided to me free of charge through for the sole purpose of an honest review. All thoughts, comments, and ratings are my own.\*

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### **Karen Roma says**

On a Winter's Eve, Nevan Mathews is travelling home to the place that holds his fondest childhood memories and a heartache that burns deep within.

In a split second he finds himself careening off the road, stranded with a snow storm threatening his survival. As Nevan looks up, piercing green eyes look through the trees and beckon him to follow.

It's the moment of choice. Could this be Nevan's saviour or the biggest mistake of his life.

Join Nevan in discovering that although love and pain are often close companions, finding happiness is worth the suffering.

Winter's Eve is the prequel to Lia Davis's new series Ashwood Falls.

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### **Melissa says**

Nevan Matthews is coming home to his family after being away for some time, but on the wintery roads in the Smoky Mountains, he swerves to miss hitting an animal and wrecks his rental car. He follows a leopard (the animal he swerved to miss) to a house in the woods. The leopard is a shifter named Danica, who lives away from town to avoid the pity in people's eyes as she was physically hurt and can no longer do her job (healer of the pack).

I loved the world building and the glimpse of the different characters I will meet in the other books. This was Danica and Nevan's story, but the other characters were introduced in a way that seemed organic. Nevan is not your typical human finding out that there are shifters in the world; his step-mother and step-brothers are mountain lion shifters and they helped him learn their ways and honed his empathetic skills - both came in

handy and allowed the shifters to welcome him into the pack.

I am looking forward to reading more from this series.

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