



Transition

Megan S. Johnston

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The Chimera are a race so old, the humans relegated them as a myth. The Gods feared the Chimeras' powers, believing they were a deadly race with physical abilities beyond belief. So they split their race in half, condemning them to wander the earth searching for their other half to be complete. Without their sodalis, each is destined to live life without dreams, without love, without hope. The future rests on finding their one true mate for life. SHELBY O'NEIL has led a solitary life with her parents. So when she goes to college, she believes her life has just begun. Now in her second year, the dreams begin. She dreams with the same man, night after night for months. When her dream world becomes her reality, and her life becomes a danger zone, she quickly learns to trust the one man who has thrown her into this new and dangerous world. DEVELON COLE is Chimera and his race has been on earth as long as humans. His people are desperate to find their one true mate for life, and Develon has just found his, in the small college town of Pullman, Washington. His duty is to protect her against the Chimera hunters and guide her to who she was always meant to be, his sodalis, his mate.

Transition Details

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Sara says

This book was a little different than the other shapeshifter books I have read. In Transition, this race is called Chimera, and they have been around forever. They can live hundreds of years. Most of their lives are spent searching and hoping to find the other half of their soul or soulmates, or what they call their sodalis. Shelby is a college student that has no idea why she has been having dreams for a few months with the sexy Develon. Then circumstances over Christmas break bring them together, and starts them on a journey of discovery, mostly for her and finding out what she is.

I adored Develon. At the beginning a tattoo was mentioned on his back that was never brought up again that I wanted to hear more about. Hehehe. He is a great protector for Shelby, and will do anything for her. I am a sucker for soulmate books. I love when they have been sharing dreams and then finally meet. Shelby is a great strong girl, but she seemed kind of indecisive most the book about how she felt about Develon, even though she kept trying to seduce him.

Develon had his best friend, Stephen, that I would love to read about in a future book. I wasn't sure how to feel about Leandro, but after all was done, I hope in a sequel, he will have more of a story too. All he wants is to find his mate he has been searching forever for. I found it funny that these Chimera that were a few hundred years old had never learned how to drive. Too funny.

I did feel the book dragged on a little, and some things were repeated too often. I really didn't want to see the word sodalis again. I will read future books, though, and look forward to seeing what happens in the future, especially with Stephen, Leandro, Gavin, and maybe even her friend Jen.

Brandy Nacole says

This is a very interesting story about the bond between soulmates. I was very intrigued when I first read the details behind this story. I was inticed during the whole story. I enjoyed reading the tale of the lost soul mates and the never ending hunt to find the one that completes you.

When Develon does find his soul mate, Shelby, he was confused because his soul mate shouldn't be human. Then once he talks with Shelby and reveals what they mean to each other, Shelby wants answers. They seek out her family to find that they have been hiding her from the world she belongs to. Now Shelby has to face her Transition, a new world she never knew about, plus accepting her new life with Develon.

Shelby and Develon face some obstacles through the book but with each others help, they make it through. I'm looking forward to the second book although there are some trouble areas that have already been commented on that I will not go over again. Overall the story is good, the pace is okay, and the series will no doubt grow.

Ambyr says

I received this book from the Author for an honest review. The only bias-ness that I give a review in ARR is for some grammar/spelling issues; as I know that they will be fixed (usually). There were no glaring issues of

this sort in this book (THANK YOU!!!)

This book review is totally honest.

I will try not to give away any of the story, you can get the description from the Amazon Book Description, you don't need me for that.

I have to admit, I was surprisingly happy with this book. There were many areas where, if the writing wasn't great, the plot would have fallen apart, been too cheesy, or just been... juvenile.

But Johnston has such a way with words, with scenes, and with characters. She has really laid out details about the Chimera race, you can tell she organized herself before writing the book. There were no issues with fact-blurring. Develon and Shelby (and the others, of course) are such deep, well written characters that I found myself enraptured in their story. I couldn't put the book down! The plot moves swiftly, with minimum eyebrow raises from me (You know there are always the spots in a book where you're like "WHY did you do THAT?!?!?!... I only had a very few in this book, and it was always around the girls (Shelby and Jen) putting themselves in positions where they were alone with men they don't know, with no way to call for help should something go sour).

The refreshing thing about this book was that it was sweet, tender, uplifting. It has the elements of magic or otherworldyness without the etchings of pain and anguish that usually accompanies books in this genre. It was a beautifully crafted book.

Well done, Ms. Johnston!

Rachael says

Disclaimer: The fact that I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review has not affected my rating. This review reflects my honest opinions.

I suppose when I looked at the summary of this book, internally, I was comparing it to *Daughter of Smoke and Bone*. I was probably expecting more action, more world building... I'm not totally sure. However, honestly I have to say that *Transition* wasn't the book for me...

For me, the main fault in this book was the lack of substance in the plot. I'm going to be brutally honest here - I was pretty bored when I was reading this book. There was a little action in the beginning, but otherwise, it's mostly sexual tension, explanations of the Chimera World, and some telepathic conversations that I found were equivalent to fluff. There wasn't much world building either - something I probably was expecting in the Chimaera world.

I also wasn't the biggest fan of Develon & Shelby's relationship. *Definitely* a sign of insta-love. I know that there are some books that I read where there's insta-love, but I see a lot more chemistry between the couple. In this case, there was some sexual tension, although I didn't really feel any chemistry between the two. I get that Develon's hot and Shelby's beautiful, and *sodalis* are everything in a Chimaera's world, but to realistically portray "love" in a book, chemistry is a plus, right?

Moving on. The characters were quite bland. The only character I found to have *some* dimension was Leandro, because of his desperation to find his *sodalis* and loyalty to the Chimaera. However, I found the main speakers, Develon and Shelby, to be too perfect and void of emotion. Shelby forgives everyone of *everything*, and I don't think that's realistically possible. There was one instance where Shelby's mother

informed Shelby of another problem. Her reaction wasn't anger, fear, worry... it was "Tell me more so I know about the problems I'm dealing with so I can try to deal with them." I admire her optimism, but it made Shelby as a character seem bland and unrealistic.

On the bright side, I found the world of the Chimaera to have potential. I love the idea of connecting your minds, *sodalis*, and the seven chakra - some ideas that could be wonderful if developed! The Transitions were also pretty intriguing, although I probably wanted a little more of the Chimaera lore...

Overall, I would say to skip this book if you're looking for action and some fantasy. If you're a huge fan of romance, maybe this book is for you - but it isn't for me.

Alyson LaBarge says

You will not fall. I will be with you. Don't worry. Remember, trust your instincts, trust me. ~ Develon

How many of us do not need/want to hear that very thing? Megan S. Johnston has lovingly written her debut novel *Transition*(The Chimera series) with that as the theme.

The Good: *Transition* is basically about soul mates traversing the world to find one another and the completeness that occurs from them being together. Shelby is busy living her life as a college student when she decided spur of the moment to take a trip with her girlfriend over the Christmas break. One thing leads to another and she meets Develon and her world will never be the same. Develon and Shelby go through various trials and tribulations en route to their HEA.

Ms. Johnston did an excellent job of writing characters that are not only likeable but believable. I was so immersed in this story that I read all 256 pages in half of one day! I LOVED it. I could totally visualize the entire thing in my head. (Guess that is why I love books so much!) The relationship between Develon and Shelby was so intense that it was almost palpable. I know there are different schools of thought regarding Soul Mates but as I read along, I *totally* wanted to believe in them. Shelby goes through several huge shocks throughout the story but with Develon by her side, she can work through them and rise above it all. In the end, I loved Shelby as much as I loved Develon.

The Bad: The menace in the story (*every* good story has to have a menace, right?) was the only character that I felt got the short end of the descriptive stick. I felt we just did not know enough about him all along and then got a bunch of information on him dumped on us all at once. Even then, I felt his character could have been more developed. Otherwise, I have no complaints at all. (Well, I was really mad at her parents for a good while but that was as it should be.;;)

The Snuggly: Can I tell you how bad a 19 year old girl would want to jump Develon's bones most of the time?!!! Well, the desire, make that *intense* desire for intimacy was there between the characters but it was all very chaste and appropriate for the circumstances. More than enough to warm a girl's cockles but clean enough for your teenage daughters.

Final Thoughts: When I reached the end of the book, the story wrapped up nicely however I was soooooo ready to read **more!** Thankfully, this is the first of The Chimera series so hope springs eternal!:) You may notice that not everyone shares my enthusiasm for *Transition*. I have observed that this appears to be a book

you either love or hate, very little in between. So, if you love a good Paranormal Romance, this is probably the book for you! Enjoy!

Love and Books,

Alyson

Copy provided by the author/publisher for an honest review.

Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says

Develon Cole, a Chimera Elder, has been dreaming about his sodalis or mate for a very long time now. Shelby O'Neil has been dreaming of a mystery man for over two months now not sure if he's real or not. Develon tells Shelby that they will meet soon but Shelby is not so sure about that. Shelby tells her best friend Jen about her mystery man and Jen encourages Shelby to find a real life man instead of mystery man. Jen asks Shelby to spend part of winter break with her in a cabin near the mountains. Shelby agrees that she needs rest and relaxation for a week before seeing her parents over Christmas. Shelby finally meets Develon after an accident occurs in the cabin Jen and Shelby are staying at. Shelby cannot believe her eyes when she finally sees Develon. Develon is so happy that his sodalis Shelby is unharmed. The cabin falling in was no accident it was caused by Chimera Hunters and Develon wants to know why. Gavin and Leandro are two Chimera Hunters sent by Adin to kill Shelby but are relieved that they didn't succeed. Develon has questions about why Shelby smells human that only her parents can answer. They plan to go to Shelby's house as a surprise. What do Shelby's parents know? Can Shelby trust Develon? Why does Leandro bother Shelby? Your answers await you in Transition.

Cassi Freeman says

This book is awesome! Im on chapter 12 and i cant stop reading. I love romance books and love supernatural books and those combined create an amazing story. Everyone should read this book!

Michelle Cornwell-Jordan says

Transition(The Chimera series) tells the story of Shelby O Neil, a young college student, that up until she left home to pursue a college education, led a sheltered existence with her parents. As an only child, the two most important people in her life, her parents...were also the ones keeping her for the most part from the world.

But off to school she goes, and the book opens with Shelby already rooted in school, with a best friend and a routine. Although for the past couple of months, Shelby had been dreaming of a beautiful man. The thought of him feels her heart, that nothing or no one in her reality can live up to.

During Christmas break, instead of going home to her parents, she and a friend drives up and stays at another friends cabin. The trip looks promising and the girls settle in for a holiday of lounging by the fire and skiing. But things do not turn out as plan; Shelby and her roommate discover that they are neighbors to a pair of incredibly hot young men, after a freak snow storm destroys their cabin, and almost kills them. Then the

surprises continue, when she discovers that one of the young men, is the man of Shelby's dreams...the ACTUAL man she had been dreaming of, and there is an undeniable and unexplainable attraction between them both. Shelby is then told by the young man Develon, that he is from a different race...Chimera's shapeshifters, who have been coexisting under the radar with humans for generations. Also, that Shelby is his Sodalis (Life Mate)...and that Shelby is being hunted by Chimera Hunters! There are also some great twists and surprises at the end!

This was a well-written, entertaining read:) It has the flavor of Christine Feehan's Carpathian novels...Transitions (The Chimera series) with the thread of passion, hot Alpha males, and on the edge adventure, doesn't disappoint. Ms. Johnston takes the familiar shapeshifting notions (I love shapeshifters:) and places a fresh twist on it with her Chimera's. She has created a world, with rules, laws, political intrigue and hot guys!... that should keep readers enthralled throughout the series. I look forward to the next book and then the next in this awesome series:)

Penumbra says

[

I really wanted to like this book because I love shape-shifters and the idea of them finding their mates. But I could only get through half of the book because of the many discrepancies, amongst other things. I'm not sure how to list all the things that didn't work for me in the story. Here are t

Elli Z says

I knew better than to start reading "Transition" in the evening, but I couldn't help myself and ended up staying up till 2am to finish it in one shot. The story is addictive, the background and characters well-defined, and the descriptions are perfect. Ms. Johnston has found a great balance between description and action, with enough sensuality to make it hot while keeping it safely in the teen-zone.

Each character has a unique voice, and the switch from one to the next is done exceptionally well. It's completely believable that Develon is over 200 years old just from listening to his speech patterns, while his younger friend Stephen is more naturally modern. Shelby is the youngest of the characters, and I found myself liking her inner strength more and more as I read.

And the best part... there are more books coming! It's lovely to find a book that can stand on its own, yet still be part of a series.

Note: The author provided an electronic copy of the book to me in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Morgan Schell says

The chemistry and love between Develon and Shelby is beautiful. Something that most people hope to experience even a portion of... Myself included! There was too much inner rambling with Shelby for my taste. For example--- She stopped, pulled out a hair band and fixed her hair into a ponytail, and she always

kept one with her cause you never know when it might be needed--- honestly, that didn't interest me to read about. Ok, awesome, let's move on. There's a good bit of humor in the story, which I am always a fan of! Stephen is a great character, and someone I would enjoy having as a close friend. There was a nice ending to the story, leaving me with a happy feeling in my heart. :-)

Cats of Ulthar says

“Transition” has quite an intriguing premise: Chimeras, a mythical race of beings composed of three animals in combination (in Greek myth; lion, goat, and snake), actually do exist and have for millennia. Divided into opposing segments by the deities, who thought the Chimeras’ abilities too dangerous, the species has hunted ever since to find its “other half,” its “sodalist” or lifetime mate. Shelby, a homeschooled farm girl who now attends Washington State University in Pullman, Washington, has recently had a series of dreams both disturbing and enticing, of a sexy male who communicates with her by seeming telepathy, and who is tattooed broadly with a Siberian white tiger. Friends try to tell her to forget her dream fantasy and date what’s real; but sometimes friends don’t know best, and neither do family. Shelby will have to make her own considered decision.

The friendship with tension between Shelby and Jen are mirrored by similar between the Chimeras Develon and Stephen. All the characters are well-rounded and understandable. The explanations of the seemingly mythical premise of the Chimeras are handled in a way that allows immediate suspension of reality; there is no “huh? That’s not possible” involved because the locale is so detailed and the Chimeras just seem so natural and so plausible that the reader is immediately drawn in.

This novel is not just well-written and enjoyable; it’s addictive. I found myself thinking about the plot, the setting, and the characters, even while reading other books and while trying to sleep. “Transition” is very highly recommended; I can only hope it will be but the first in a very attractive and enjoyable series.

Dianne says

If I had to review **Transition** with one word-I would use “refreshing.” (But, because I get more than one word, that will be explained later!) Shelby has spent a happy, but sheltered life with her parents, but now she is in college and enjoying her first real friendship with the flirty Jen, who has made it her mission to get Shelby to step outside her comfort zone and live a little. Of course neither of them knew how big of a step it would be when they took off to do some skiing in a remote area at a friend’s cabin. Enter Stephen and Develon, model-hot “nice” guys who are much more than what they seem! Develon has been the object of Shelby’s rather spicy dreams for several months. So you can imagine Shelby’s shock to come face to face with her fantasy guy who tells her he has been dreaming of her, too! And this isn’t even half the story! Secrets are revealed and life will never be the same for Shelby or her heart!

You’re probably wondering the first thing I noticed about **Transition** by Megan S. Johnston. There is no major angst, no hand wringing, no majorly damaged personalities to contend with! Hence, this was “refreshing” to read! Don’t get me wrong, I like angst, but I like romantic tension and secrets revealed better and Ms. Johnston has provided both in spades for me. Her ability to put together good dialogue and a cast of characters that have real personalities is phenomenal, and she did that while keeping the story moving at a great pace, varying the action and setting up a new world for her Chimera Hunter Series. Sure, maybe some things weren’t completely revealed, but if she didn’t leave a little mystery and a few questions out there,

what would I have to look forward to?

I'd like to thank Megan Johnston for providing me with a review copy of **Transition** in exchange for my honest review.

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Jackie says

ransition begins as Develon has found his sodalis, Shelby. He realizes this because they have been sharing dreams together for months. He knows this is what the Chimera do when they find their one true mate. Now, he only has to meet her. Shelby has been dreaming about this incredibly good-looking guy for months. When she attempts to tell her friend about him she tells her she must find a "real" guy. So, the two of them go on a little skiing vacation right before Shelby goes home for Christmas. Here Shelby and her friend meet two very good-looking guys. Those two good-looking guys end up being Chimera and not only that but one of them is Develon. Shelby and Develon finally get to meet and the chemistry is electric. But, some unfortunate accidents and a discovery threaten to shake up the bond that is so strong between these two.

I really enjoyed reading this book. It was a new take on the shape shifter idea. Also, I loved the idea of the sodalis. That they could find the one half of their soul and feel complete is something most people want. All of the Chimera characters are unbelievably hot and will send many women to Antarctica looking for these men. Shelby and Develon a two very well-developed characters. I enjoyed how their bond did grow and you could actually see and feel it through the story. I know this is the first book in the series, but I am so ready for the next. I recommend this book wholeheartedly.

Tegan says

I received a free copy of this book, from the Lovers of Paranormal group here on Goodreads. There is a lot of tension in this book, and it has a very strong and intriguing storyline: there was no straying away from the problem at hand which keeps you reading, there are a few spelling mistakes here and there, and at some points it was hard to tell who was speaking. The main character (Shelby O'Niel) though: knew what she wanted and at no point whatsoever did she stray from that: Shelby wanted to finish her education but was daunted by what would come after she had completed it, but on a trip with her friend (Jen) a catastrophe sends Shelby spiralling quite suddenly into an entirely new world: with new problems, with new hopes and desires. You manage to feel like you can sympathise with all the characters, thus making it quite an interesting read although at times it can get confusing and feel like it's dragging on a little bit.

