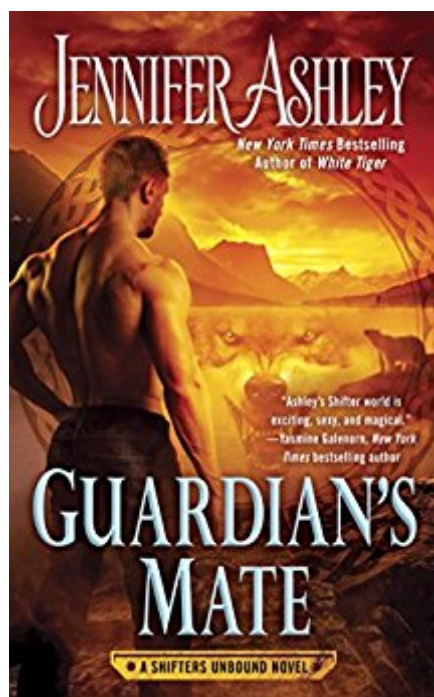


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Guardian's Mate (A Shifter's Unbound Novel)



Synopsis

The New York Times bestselling author of *White Tiger* returns as primal desire draws two lone shifters into each other's arms... She wasn't ready to lead... Chosen as the Guardian of her Montana Shifertown, wolf Shifter Rae Lyall is facing opposition for no woman has ever been selected for this powerful position. Still adjusting to the new authority thrust upon her, Rae travels to train with Zander Moncrieff, a Shifter healer, tasked with teaching her about her new role and its responsibilities. He wasn't ready to love... A polar bear Shifter, Zander wears no Collar and follows no rules but his own. Rae finds him arrogant and demanding, yet compelling and intriguing. Zander has no wish to mate but the sassy Guardian is drawing him out of his shell, stirring feelings long suppressed. And when a new threat looms over Rae's home, she and Zander must race to the rescue, forced closer to danger...and to each other.

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Customer Reviews

"Rae looked across the tossing water at Zander Moncrieff and couldn't decide whether she should jump overboard or leap onto his boat and smack him."FINAL DECISION: Lovely story with lots of action and characters I liked and cared about. My only negative was that the emotional connection

between these characters happened so fast and only the circumstances of the plot kept them apart.

THE STORY: Wolf shifter Rae Lyall is the chosen Guardian (the shifter who can send shifters to "heaven" at their death). Her choosing by the Goddess causes unrest because a female has never been chosen from that position. Now subject to suspicion and derision, Rae's father sends her to polar bear shifter and healer Zander Moncrieff for protection and training. Zander is Goddess touched himself and understands the challenges of the "gift". There is a reluctant attraction between the two but the threats that surround them keep Rae and Zander focused on working together while falling for one another.

OPINION: I'm a big fan of Ashley's shifter series. The series has a lot to say about issues of the day in an entertaining fashion. I also enjoy how the Shifters have managed to retain their own traditions and identity despite the onerous restrictions placed upon them by humans. In this book, Zander is a free spirit. Seen as "crazy" by many, Zander suffers with his gift of healing. Not only does he suffer by healing, he also knows that he cannot help everyone. By making himself inaccessible, he limits the demands on his gift. Despite his behavior, Zander cares tremendously about others. Rae is an orphan wolf shifter adopted by felines. She loves her family but still feels the loneliness of being different.

If you love shifters and haven't tried out Jennifer Ashley's Shifters Unbound series you're so in for a treat! *Guardian's Mate*? Total paranormal goodness complete with a sexy polar bear shifter. Noms!

The quick of it is that Rae has been chosen Guardian by the goddess. Only problem? She's practically still a cub and, well, female and there's never been a female Guardian before. And that has people nervous. Ergs! Training in her home town just isn't safe which lands her in the care of a polar bear. A polar bear who is just about as pleased about the arrangement as she is. Which is to say...not at all. lol I loved Zander and Rae down to their paws! Both are rather isolated due to being "goddess touched" and without family (though she has an adopted one) and I loved seeing them start to put together their own little ragtag clan of sorts and heal that loneliness in each other. They're good people who will do anything for someone in need even when it hurts them in return and were just impossible not to adore and root for.

Heat-wise? Ergs. Their romance was a bit slower going but it was so damn fun watching them growl and nip and tease and finally figure out they were perfect for each other. They had that perfect combo of teasing fun, driving each other crazy and trying to resist which kept things entertaining. There's some stellar tension that just smoldered but it takes them a long while to seal the deal. It totally worked for me though.

Now. All the stuff that kept the nookie from commencing. There was a LOT happening in this one. It was non stop adventure and action as they dodged shifter bounty hunters and new enemies. Not to mention the Alaskan

elements, fae magic and being goddess touched which is just a bitch all it's own.

Zander Moncrief, a polar bear shifter and healer who was touched by the Goddess. He was also introduced to us in WILD THINGS. Zander never wanted a mate, the man was eccentric, very loyal and a role model to an orphan polar bear in Austin Shifertown....Little Olaf.Rae Lyall's adoptive father, Eoin was a feline shifter, leader of Montana Shifertown. The previous Guardian of the Western Montana Shifertown was Daragh whom we met in BAD WOLF. The late Guardian was killed by humans, his soul and sword were rescued by Broderick McNaughton. The time for the Goddess to choose a new Guardian had arrived, all the young men of the Montana Shifertown were required to attend.Rae was Lupine, a black wolf, she looked up to her father. The day of the ceremony for the new Guardian, she held the sword because the others were afraid to hold it. When the Goddess made her choice, everyone was left in a state of shock even the new Guardian. Turned out Rae had been chosen by the Goddess.Zander was asked by Kendrick Shaughnessy (Guardian of the un-Collared Shifters) to look after Rae and to train her. The crazy bear was not too happy at the turns of event, but he could never deny Kendrick anything. The first encounter between Zander and Rae was very eye opening.Rae was scared being the new Guardian and it was understandable, she was the first female Guardian and that didn't sit well with some of the shifters. Her life was in danger so her father made sure she was protected.As Rae and Zander spend more time together, they both realized that they had a lot in common. There was a deep connection between them. As they tried to fight the attraction that was growing, the Goddess had other plans for her chosen children.

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