

## **KINDRED: SHADOWS OF NIGHT**

By Ellen Fisher

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Reviewed by :: L.K. Campbell

An e-book

In the distant future, human beings have been forced to leave a doomed planet Earth and seek out a new home in another galaxy. On their new home planet, they acquire the ability to shape shift—transform themselves into various animals from Earth. Some humans have the ability to shift into deer, others into lions and predatory cats and still others become wolves. It isn't long before the new human race breaks off into factions, according to the type of animal they can become when shifting.

This is the world Ellen Fisher has created in *Kindred: Shadows of the Night*. In a “Romeo and Juliet”-type tale, Fisher weaves the story of Hart, crown prince of the Antler Kindred and Katara, princess of the Claw Kindred. The story begins when Hart finds a badly injured Katara in the forest. She's been the victim of a brutal—and uncharacteristic attack—by the Fang Kindred.

He takes her back to the Antler Keep, where advanced technology (leftover from the days of their ancestors who settled the planet) heals her of her wounds. There's an instant attraction between the two, but Antler and a Claw can never be mated. Hart's father, the Antler Monarch is none-to-pleased with the fact that his son has brought a “barbarian” into their keep and orders her to be kept prisoner where she'll never be able to shift again to her cat form.

Finding a way to escape her imprisonment, Katara goes off into the forest with Hart in pursuit. The two of them can no longer fight their attraction to one another and give in to their human instincts. But they soon find that their respective Kindreds face a grave new danger from the Fang, who have developed something unheard of since the days of their ancestors—weapons that can kill from a distance. Will Hart and Katara be able to unite their Kindreds to work together against this new threat?

I thoroughly enjoyed this thought-provoking novella by award-winning author, Ellen Fisher. The easy writing style flows from chapter to chapter with vivid imagery and characterizations. Intertwined with the wonderfully played out romance between Hart and Katara are subtle lessons about bigotry and the misuse of technology. This is another great read from Fisher.

**4 ½ Kisses**