



Mating Season

Allie Ritch

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It's mating season on the arctic planet of Jensen, time for eligible men to winter with a potential spouse. In the past, Koll's enormous size and gruff disposition have scared off available women. When Shila literally falls into his arms, he hopes maybe this year will be different. Shila belongs to a race of shifters who are able to transform into enormous frost bears. She loves Koll's big body and sexy growl, and she understands the benefit of having a strong protector. With two male shifters stalking her, she needs Koll to keep her safe. But can he defeat the competition?

(Previously published by Liquid Silver Books. This work has been revised and re-edited.)

Mating Season Details

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From Reader Review Mating Season for online ebook

Nona Raines says

For a short book, I thought the author packed in plenty of hawt scenes. I did not feel cheated in the sex department! I liked the gruff and taciturn Koll and his relationship with Shila. It only made me a little sad I couldn't have my own frost bear :-).

Erin says

I rather enjoyed this one. Not just shape shifters, but aliens?! I'm okay with that.

I really liked Koll, and Shila was awesome.

All in all I really liked it.

Llaph | No Frill | No Shill says

Shila, who is a child of Nanook, a giant frost bear shifter, is on the run. While fleeing she finds help in a protector from an unexpected source. This source is a “one skin”, a human, and has blunt manners, a big body, and a sexy growl that she likes a lot. Will he be enough to keep her safe from what she is escaping?

Koll is looking for a woman of his own who will accept all of him, including his large size and abrupt manners. After trying at one more village he admits defeat and starts home, but finds Shila on the way. He will deal with her by saying that she is a shifter with trouble on her trail because he has decided that she was made for him.

What she is fleeing is a mating that two shifters want to force onto her. Despite the fact he is not a shifter, he has promised to protect her anyway. Even though Koll is not of her kind she has to rely on him. They have started to care about each other, but will he be able to save her to keep them together?

I liked reading this. It was an interlude where I could indulge myself with an entertaining, quick, and hot love story. It has a yummy laconic alpha male, a strong woman in need of saving, and love scenes which are hot. Despite the fact they both do not talk much, their interactions are intense and meaningful. I was not suffocated with details about the author's new world; I was given enough to be “in the know” and was able to enjoy the story.

Official Review @ Coffee Time Romance & More

Tony says

In the introduction Allie Ritch writes: *This is one for all the people who have ever struggled to fit in.* It describes the main male character Koll well as he's a bear of a man towering over all others in his small village, but despite his stature he has a centre soft like that of a teddy bear.

His size intimidates the men and women around him, making it near impossible for him to find a mate and not just out of his village but also in the villages around his. On his way back from another failed visit to a neighbouring village he encounter an exhausted woman in the middle of the wilderness and takes her home with him to recover, but who is she and what were she doing there?

The Mating Season is an Erotic Sci-Fi book taking place on the frozen and inhospitable planet Jensen. The warmth in the story comes from the characters and their bonds.

What impressed me the most with the story is the strength of the female main character Shila that doesn't fold to the strength of Koll, but even challenge it and in particular during the sex scenes show her own hunger and initiative. It's refreshing to find a story that embraces and affirms the female sexuality. In most other erotic stories with a strong female she falls on her back and spreads her legs as soon as it comes to sex, but not here. in Mating Season they face each other on equal terms.

I would have liked to have seen the suspense/action part of the story expanded to a more full story, but understand that the scope was reduced to fit in with the short story format.

Lisa says

I was quite surprised by this short and sexy book. The heat between the characters starts pretty quickly, but I didn't feel like it was rushed due to the setting of the story.

Both the hero/heroine are very likeable, and there is just enough added tension from the bad guys to make this a story worthy of reading late into the night.

I will be looking for my books by Allie Ritch.

Rosanna Leo says

Mating Season was a fun, titillating escape into a frozen world full of snarling frost bears, hot sex and a hero whose tremendous size is matched by his big heart. Koll is a human man whose stature and brusque manners have always set him apart. It seems no woman will have him, until the day he meets Shila, a bear shifter. Immediately, these two loners are bound by their physical attraction and the underlying emotions. However, Shila is being stalked by two other frost bears, ones who won't take no for an answer. Allie Ritch has crafted a rich, unique world, and has peopled it with hot characters and hotter times. The sex scenes are off the charts and Koll is a delectable hero. Shila is outspoken and brave and I loved her too. What fun!

Lani ?? the Destroyer ?? says

I'm surprised how much I liked this book. For the short length the characters were well rounded and entertaining. I read it in one sitting so it was a nice little bite before bed :)

Scubasubiker says

Really great tale about a human finding a bear shifter mate. Had a futuristic "clan of the cave bear" feel to it. The sex was super exciting and numerous. It's classified as PNR and scifi, but it was mostly PNR. Scifi elements were just grazed over.

Alisa says

IDK why... but I really liked this story.

Shila and Koll are great characters. Koll is the loner.. the outcast in his own village because of his size.

Every year, the men in his village find ladies to hole up with all winter and get it on.. come summer time, if you like eachother, you can get to making babies.. if not, you move on to next winter... it's like a Whore's Paradise.

Shila is a Frost Bear.. it's kinda like a super charged Polar Bear. A number of years ago, she lost her mate and her unborn twins by a set of brothers that wanted to make a Shila sandwich and have her be their breeding cow..

Classy guys... Real Classy.

Anywho..

She has been running ever since until she stumbles into this man.. this very large, dominating, powerful, protective man who sets every fibre of her being into overdrive.

Can she allow herself to fall for this amazing man, will he give her a choice?

Just great. The sex was smokin and the story itself was interesting and kept my attention at work, which is very difficult to do. It was different.. normally it is Wolves or Big Cat Shifters... hell, there is even birds and rodents.. but I havent read about a "Frost Bear" (aka Polar Bear).. it was really good

Elaine says

Wow! This book is a knockout!

Usually do my shopping on Amazon, but periodically check out other sites. Found this one on allromanceebooks.com, in their top 10 books right now.

Set on an arctic planet, Koll is somewhat out of place. He is a big man, having difficulty finding a woman not intimidated by his size and disposition. He finds and rescues Shila, a beautiful woman who happens to be proportionately larger than average.

Shila is a frost bear shifter, and is a perfect match for Koll. She is being hunted by two brother shifters, who want to share her as their mate.

This novella has a good pace and held my interest. The sex scenes are frequent and VERY hot, and pushed

my rating up to 5 stars.

Allie Ritch, I'll be reading you again, real soon!

LG (A Library Girl's Familiar Diversions) says

I picked this up because I loved the idea of a gruff-looking outcast, who's really a lonely softy, meeting a woman who likes him just the way he is. Unfortunately, this was one of those times when I liked the idea of a story better than its actual execution.

Part of my problem with this novella was that I didn't really like Koll. I'm pretty sure the author wanted readers to see him as a big, sexy, misunderstood sweetie. Instead, I found myself thinking that it was no wonder he couldn't get any women to accept his ribbon and stay with him for the winter. Yes, he was huge (according to him, an average woman's chest comes about as high as his navel), but it was more than that. He wasn't a conversationalist in any way, shape, or form. Soon after meeting Shila, the two of them had lots and lots of sex. It wasn't until about a third of the way through the story, as he was trying to introduce her to the other villagers, that he realized he hadn't even asked her what her name was. Shila didn't see anything wrong with this and didn't mind, but I did. I had similar issues when, late in the story, Koll had sex with Shila and didn't even notice until after they were done that she was hurt. Again, she didn't mind, but I did. A guy who is so focused on sex that absolutely nothing else enters his brain just isn't sexy to me.

In case you hadn't already guessed, this novella is mostly composed of sex scenes. I tend to prefer books and novellas with more story and less sex, and it didn't help that I rarely found the scenes in *Mating Season* to be sexy.

Shortly after Koll met and rescued Shila, there was a moment when he had to undress her. She was unconscious and dressed in wet clothes. It was cold outside. Making sure she was warm and dry was a good thing. Except Koll couldn't undress her without getting all hot and bothered, which led to him masturbating to the sight of her naked, unconscious body. Okay, so he felt ashamed afterward, but still. I think readers were supposed to find this scene hot, but it was so completely icky to me.

I continued to have problems with the supposed "hot" scenes. Some of Ritch's word choices made me shudder - I would prefer that the word "drool" never be associated with genitalia. Ever. Also, while the story contains no actual bestiality, there was one instance where Koll had a sudden fantasy about Shila giving him a blow job while in bear form. No. Just no. And Shila's dialogue when she complied with Koll's request to tell him how much she liked his large body while they were having sex was cringe-worthy.

The world-building was pretty weak, and all the sex scenes left little room for anything else. Supposedly, Shila got to know and win over other villagers besides Koll, but readers don't get to see much of this on-page. The sex in this story really does take precedence over everything else. While I did like that Shila was never presented as a whimpering, helpless damsel-in-distress (she and Koll fought her frost bear shifter pursuers together!), all in all, this novella was not for me.

Additional Comments:

To be fair, I think I may have purchased this back before I made sure to read reviews and excerpts in addition to descriptions. The excerpt is pretty good about giving potential buyers a taste of what they'd be in

for.

(Original review, with read-alikes, posted on [A Library Girl's Familiar Diversions](#).)

Dolce Amore says

Written For Confessions From Romaholics

Koll lives in an arctic planet named Jensen, and it's rife with giant wolverines, spear-toothed cats, and enormous frost bears that prowl the ice floes. He frightens most women with his large body, dark looks, and gruff manner, so every year he ventures to distant villages to search for a woman to call his own. This year, as with the previous ones, he fails; but on his way home he discovers a beautiful woman asking for help. After telling a lie to his neighbors, he has to make her wear his ribbon.

(full review)

Rita C says

Short and sweet. Likeable characters and a satisfying happy ending.

Rosebud says

Koll makes his yearly journey on the cold planet of Jensen to find a single female who might accept him enough to want to live the mandatory period of cohabitation with the goal of getting married. Finding Shila, a stranger, unconscious and obviously running from someone or something he brings her home with him. She's beautiful, strong, confident, and above all willing to consider him as a mate. He has the winter season to show her why he is worthy of being her mate. But Shila has a secret and the threat she was running from is still out there which may cause her to leave him and run again again.

Wow. I absolutely loved this book in terms of story line and character development not to mention the hot erotica scenes. This book had me hooked when Shila wanted to 'inspect' Koll before she agreed to anything and after their first round of sex told him: you are very good. Again? These two challenged each other alpha to alpha mode making the other prove they were equals in and out of the bedroom. Combine this with a unique story line with a few surprises and I call this a winner.

I also have to mention that the erotica scenes were fantastically written. They were carnal and animalistic at times. Kinky at times, Koll and Shila's antics were hot enough to melt snow.

There were some parts of the story that bothered me but revealing that in this review would be spoilers and I don't do spoilers even with the spoiler hide feature. But after reading this book I know I'll be looking for other books by this author because she has a really different writing style with characters that are different and empowering.

Nancy says

This was a lovely Saturday morning read. Koll is a big gruff male that has a lot of love bottled up inside just waiting for a willing woman to accept him. He practically stumbles over his perfect woman and the story goes on from there.

The sex was hard and hot. I really enjoyed this short story.
