



# Creature

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Alone in a cell and lacking memories of his past, John has no idea who—or what—he is.

Alone on the streets of 1950s Los Angeles, Harry has far too many memories of his painful past and feels simply resignation in facing his empty future.

When Harry is given a chance to achieve his only dream—to become an agent with the Bureau of Trans-Species Affairs—all he has to do is prove his worth. Yet nothing has ever come easy for him. Now he must offer himself and John as bait, enticing a man who wants to conquer death. But first he and John must learn what distinguishes a monster from a man—and what a monster truly wants.

## Creature Details

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Author : Kim Fielding

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## From Reader Review Creature for online ebook

### Kathleen says

A really terrific addition to Kim Fielding's Bureau series. Beautiful love story emulating the classic Frankenstein's lonely monster. Set in Portland eight years after WWII. Very atmospheric and reflective of the era. Loved it.

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### Lisa The Novel Approach says

There is the hint of a monster in all of us; that is one of the takeaways from Kim Fielding's latest Bureau series release, *Creature*. I have to agree with the author on that point. Who among us has not done something, to either stranger or kin, that we didn't regret later, some harsh or uncaring response that could most definitely qualify us as monsters of a sort? However, this novel not only deals with the metaphorical monster inside but a real life man who is the equivalent of a modern day Frankenstein's creation.

John, as the creature has chosen to call himself, doesn't remember becoming—his heart doesn't beat in the traditional sense, he has no need for food, and when one views him there is a skeletal appearance about him. And scars. So many scars that indicate more than his parts being fused together; they also tell the story of countless abuses and exploratory surgeries to figure out just what he is and how he exists at all.

It is the 1950s and there's an agency called the Bureau of Trans-Species Affairs that has buried John deep in a cell after multiple failed attempts at seeing what makes him tick. He is left alone, dirty, and naked in a small cell where his only joy is the scant hour or so that sunlight permeates the darkness from the small window in his prison, and John can recall what it was like to be outdoors once upon a time. But his memories are scant, and he's unsure as to whether they are even his own and so the sunlight becomes his one escape from the hell he lives. Until Harry walks into his life.

Harry is living his own fresh hell, barely making it in the city after escaping an abusive father, an ultra-religious mother, and siblings who all were disgusted when they discovered he was gay at the age of sixteen. Having failed at the one goal he had of becoming an agent, Harry is wary and shocked when he is contacted by the bureau to do a job for them and perhaps earn a place in the field after all. The job entails finding a madman who wants to improve on what John is, and stopping him before he does so. The only catch is that Harry must use John as bait and himself as a lure, and both ideas become increasingly anathema to Harry as the time he has to complete the job runs thin.

We all have a little bit of a monster inside; these are true words that may be hard for many a reader to hear and yet they form the basis of this incredibly poignant story. To say that I fell in love with John the moment I entered his cell might be an understatement. This delicate creature who had only known the harshest of lives until Harry shows him something more—something to hold onto when he must return to the darkness, for return he surely will.

There is no way these two men can escape the crushing pain both have endured. Harry's was at the hands of a family that made sure he always knew how intellectually inferior he was and how perverse his proclivities were as well. Poor John was hideous to see, initially, until someone looked beyond the scarred and twisted surface and saw the depth of beauty that hid within his soul. For though he was a monster, he was not

soulless. But the author allows for these two men to glimpse a future that is far from lonely—still difficult but promising and hopeful nonetheless—and it is beautiful to read.

Creature by Kim Fielding reminds us all that while we may be far from perfect, we still have the capacity to give and receive love. That makes us creatures of light and vanquishes the monsters within all of us.

Reviewed by Sammy for The Novel Approach

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### **John The Cosmic Wanderer says**

What a great series! My fave so far

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### **Lisazj1 says**

4.5 stars, and my favorite of the Bureau tales so far! This one, more so even than the others, raises the question of what makes someone a monster, or human? It also showed a bit more clearly that The Bureau aren't exactly the good guys.

John has been in solitary confinement in a cell in the basement of The Bureau for so long, he doesn't remember who, or what, he is or how long he's been there. He's weak and wasted, his heart doesn't beat and he doesn't need to eat. But he remembers blue sky and green grass. Trees and the sound of wind. These things and the bit of sunlight he gets part of the day are his small comforts and his only company.

Harry was rejected by The Bureau when he applied to be an agent. He's down on his luck and starting to consider ways of supporting himself that he's not sure he could live with. He's then approached by Chief Townsend who dangles the carrot of Harry finally being made an agent if he'll just do this one, small job for The Bureau.

John is given to Harry to use on this job as bait, to catch yet another man trying to defeat death. But John is so sweet and so overcome with gratitude to be treated with kindness that Harry has a hard time viewing him as a monster. The more time they spend together, Harry finds his focus shifting from the job he's supposed to do and his possible reward to how he can protect John and keep him from the agency.

Kim Fielding always writes wonderful characters and stories but to do this so well and absolutely breaking my heart in a short novella is akin to making magic with words. As she does.

Loved this and can't wait to see what KF has for us next!

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### **Elena says**

Beautiful, simply beautiful...

I hope you forgive me Kim Fielding, for sharing so many highlights, but your writing is just exquisite... I think I love you! ;)

RTC when I'm more coherent than now... ;)

**ETA:** I am more coherent now... ;)

This story was yet again a win for me. But, no wonder, since it's Kim Fielding :D In comparison to the first 2 books of the *Bureau* series, it was... sweeter? I think, that's a good word for **John**'s story. Being a monster (a contemporary take on Frankenstein's creature), he should be ugly and vengeful and "bad". He should be. But despite the scars, the lack of muscles, hair and awful teeth, John is beautiful. He has a beautiful soul and a beautiful heart - both of which are not allowed to him. He knows he doesn't have a beating heart in his chest, and he doesn't have to eat to exist, so he knows he's not a MAN, but he DECIDES to be one and to have a name...

John rejoices in such small things, he loves the only visitor to his cell - the sun and he wonders about simple pleasure, like lying on the grass...

TBH, my heart was breaking for him and I was glad that he had **Harry** as his companion...

Harry was a failure, in his private and professional life. Even the *Bureau* didn't want him. And then, as a last-chance mission he gets the OBJECT - John and a task to complete. If he manages to fulfill this mission, he will get employed by the *Bureau*. Great, huh? Well, not exactly...

I'm going to finish my rambling at this. This story is too short and too good to spoil it anymore... :)

Highly recommended!!!

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### **Eugenia says**

\*\*\*4.5 Stars\*\*\*

Oh my, I think this is my favorite of the three Bureau stories so far!

Can you say zombies? I know what you're thinking. You see, zombies aren't my thing. Dead people are not sexy. Not my kink. So imagine my surprise when I'm blown away by a novella starring a zombie (creature) named John.

Yes, this book was dark, but not because of the "creature." No, what make this book dark are the humans. It's how they treat John, how they think of him. John isn't the creature here.

Then we have our other MC, a human who washed out of the Bureau training because he was too soft. He's given an assignment that involves John, and this changes everything for them both.

This book is about tenderness, caring, and love. It's about treating others as you would have them treat you. It's about two broken individuals helping to make each other stronger together.

I simply adored it. Although one question remains unanswered for me...what does a zombie ejaculate during sex? For sex there was, and pleasure was had by all involved, dead and alive.

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### **Gaia says**

Oh my god, this book. I'm so overcome. Could be hormones, or just Ms. Fielding's beautiful writing, but I'm

blinking away tears as I write this. It's emotionally charged, powerful and so, so very satisfying. I came to care deeply for Harry and John within a few pages of meeting them. My heart broke with them, soared when they shared their first kiss, shattered when their love seemed doomed to die a bloody death, and then was remade when...they found their HEA. Two flawed characters who are perfect together. Wow.

Read it if you haven't. Read it again if you have.

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### **Eli Easton says**

Yay! This book was a homerun for me. I was listening to an interminably long thriller and got bored with it. I wanted something quick and fun to blast through the book doldrums. "Creature" was the right pick. I loved it.

Kim begins with a heartbreak scene showing the "creature", John, in captivity. This immediately establishes empathy for him. I have a soft spot for underdog characters (versus perfect alpha males), and so I fell in love with John at once and had to see him get his happy.

He's removed from what might be decades of solitary confinement by the Bureau and Harry, who is picked to use John on a case. John is so grateful to be free and to be treated kindly. And Harry soon realizes John is much more than a "thing".

This is a sweet, dark little fairy tale and I read it in one sitting. Kim's writing is so effortless and appealing, it just pulls you right through the book, forgetting everything else.

Highly recommended. Now I want to go back and read the first two Bureau books.

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### **~◊~Doxi(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says**

Poignant, heartbreak, but ultimately hopeful, *Creature* is loosely based on Frankenstein. John has love in him, "the likes of which you can scarcely imagine," and when it's nurtured, he soars.

This story begs the question of what it means to be a human, what it means to love. Harry's touch, his small acts of kindness, make John the man he's always been inside. And John saves Harry too.

The ending feels like a beginning.

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## **?♥? Michaelle ☺♥? says**

5 Stars

I've really liked the other books in this series so far, but OMG I adored this one...especially how it examined what it means to be human, what it means to be "good" vs. "bad" and how it worked in comparisons (and eventual contrasts) to Frankenstein's monster. I honestly thought that this would be the installment that wouldn't end well, that would rip out my heart...it was aching so much for John by 3/4 of the way in that it would have almost been a welcome relief.

Should have trusted in KF's story-telling and the weird, non-conventional HFN's found in her books though.

I'm not sure if there are going to be any more tales of the Bureau and its agents, but if this is the last one it definitely ended on the best one.

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## **Serena Yates says**

How do you define what a monster is? is the theme of this series. This third installment is set in an alternate reality in the 1950s where a motel room for the night costs eight dollars. Each of the stories so far has looked at the question of what makes someone a monster from a different angle. 'Creature' is the one I found most difficult to read, maybe because it is the most extreme case of a "monster" as defined by the Bureau of Trans-Species Affairs. To me there was nothing monstrous about the man who calls himself John. In my mind it was the people who imprisoned and tortured him whose humanity is questionable at best. Between John and Harry – the would-be agent who is told to use John as bait to catch a man attempting to conquer death – this story turned into a fascinating character study as well as a suspenseful adventure.

Please find my full review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

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## **Dee Wy says**

Another excellent story in the series. I hope the author keeps them coming as I really love these quick reads. Lots of feels and happy endings. Exactly what I want to read.

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## **Erica says**

I liked this one a lot. I've enjoyed this entire series so far. This one, though . . . Maybe it's just the well-developed atmosphere, but it just seemed really, really sad. I'm glad it all worked out in the end, but it made my heart hurt getting there.

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**Kim says**

Like the other Bureau books, this story can be read as a standalone. All my proceeds from this series go to Doctors Without Borders.

Sometimes I get in the mood for something a little dark, and this time I was in a bit of a noir frame of mind as well, so beginning the story in Los Angeles in 1953 made perfect sense. Similar to the other stories in the series, this one encompasses paranormal aspects and deals with the theme of what separates men from monsters.

Don't be afraid of the dark--there's love here too. But the guys are going to travel a hard road to find it.

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**Achim says****3.5**

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