



## Primal

*Lora Leigh , Michelle Rowen , Jory Strong , Ava Gray*

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**Primal** Lora Leigh , Michelle Rowen , Jory Strong , Ava Gray

**Four all-new stories of primitive desire- with a never-before- published novella of the Breeds.**

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Lora Leigh returns to her sensual world of the Breeds in an all-new novella that explores just how savage, and how far, a man is willing to go in the name of desire. Plus three other stories of irresistible passions from three masters of hot paranormal romance.

## Primal Details

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Author : Lora Leigh , Michelle Rowen , Jory Strong , Ava Gray

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## From Reader Review Primal for online ebook

### Maya says

**Bleeding Heart by Michelle Rowen:** 4/5 Even though it is part of a series I got enough of the back story to enjoy it very much.

**Skin and Bones by Ava Gray:** 3.75/5 Another one that is part of a series but is very much stand alone too. You don't get confused about who is what and why. I just couldn't get into the characters very much. The story though was really good.

**Angel-Claimed by Jory Strong:** 2.25/5 I'm not sure if this was part of a series or not but I found myself skimming and skipping a lot to get to the end.

**Breed 23 - Primal Kiss by Lora leigh:** 4/5 I think this is one of the good breed stories after the last few that weren't so good. I hope she continues on the same path.

**Total = 3.5/5**

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### Alisa says

Ok... I only read the Primal Kiss by Lora Leigh and all I have to say is that with all the little rumors flying around.. I was anxious to see how this was going to be... and all I can say is WOW. WOW. WOW. Not only was the sex sexy..lol.. but what you find out about someone that for like 22 friggin books you thought was totally the evil nasty SOB you thought they were.. comes to find out not so much... CRAZY!!!!

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### Sophia Triad says

Breeds 23

Feline Breeds 14

Featured Couple: Creed (Lion) & Kita (Human)

(The review is only for Lora Leigh's story: Primal Kiss)

Although this story could be read as a standalone, it is the continuation of Amber's story from "Lion's Heat". Amber is Jonas daughter who was injecting with a chemical agent that it is altering her DNA. Nobody knows what was in that mix and nobody knows the consequences of this for little Amber.

Jonas will move heaven and earth to find a cure, even if he has to use Kita. Kita is the daughter of one of the Breeds' enemies, the man responsible for what happened to Amber, and the heir to his pharmaceutical empire.

Creed Raines is the bodyguard of Miss Kita Engalls. But things are not that simple. Of course Creed is also a Breed who is undercover.

Breeds are almost sure that Kita could be a good potential pawn against their enemies, but Creed is absolutely sure that Kita is his potential mate.

Unluckily, Kita has been raised to believe the Breeds are bad, so she will need a bit of convincing in order to accept Creed's protectiveness and love.

The sex scenes in this story are pretty intense as usual and there is some romance on the side.

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## **Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says**

**\*\* Please not that this review/rating is for Lora Leigh's "Primal Kiss" only.**

### **Primal Kiss - Rated: 3.5 Stars**

This one takes place at Sanctuary.

We have Kita a human and air to a pharmaceutical company that use to help the Council that hurt Breeds. Then we have Creed a wolf Breed who does covert undercover work. He's been hired by Mr. Engall's, Kita's father, to protect his daughter.

Everyone wants Kita: the Breeds, the Council, and the Human groups all because they think they can get her father to give them information on the Breeds that has been hidden away. This story gives you information pertaining to the Philip Brandenmore storyline. There's much more going on then Kita or Creed know about.

*It was a hot and sexy novella. Very quick and good to have a storyline wrapped up.*

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## **Mandi Schreiner says**

Bleeding Heart by Michelle Rowen

Please note: Bleeding Heart contains spoilers related to the first book in the series, Nightshade.

Bleeding Heart picks up a few days after Nightshade ends. Declan's friend tells them of a Dr. Reynolds who has stated he could help get the poisonous Nightshade serum out of Jill's veins. Jill was injected with Nightshade, a deadly poison to vampires. It gives her spells of being nauseous and the black, ink-like substance that runs through her veins has turned her hair and eyes dark. Fearing it might one day kill her, Declan and Jill are desperate to find a cure. Meeting with Dr. Reynolds however will bring its own string of problems.

I really loved Nightshade, so I was very eager to read this short story. It doesn't necessarily further this story arc, but I don't really expect an anthology to do so. I actually would be angry if something big happens in an

anthology because I don't always pick them up. This story gives us a few tense moments, which Jill and Declan have learned is pretty much their life now. We also get a glimpse of Declan, struggling with his emotions, or I should say lack thereof. Being given a permanent serum at the end of Nightshade, he lacks feeling. He is extremely protective over Jill, he just can't return her love. And in this short story we see how patient and willing Jill is to wait for her beloved Declan's heart to find her own.

Rating: B

#### Skin & Bone by Ava Gray

The Skin series by Ava Gray is one of the more unique paranormal series out there, and Skin & Bone is a very strong addition. It is my favorite out of this anthology. Silas (who we first meet in Skin Tight) has escaped the Foundation prison, where he was kept for five years. He has a "special" talent just like everyone else who was kept and experimented on and now he is on the run. Knowing the Foundation won't give up, he doesn't stay in one place long. While in Ecuador, an earthquake devastates the city he is in, and he finds Juneau, injured in rubble. Freeing her, they become a team helping others and organizing supplies until the Red Cross can appear. Both are use to being alone, but they have found an ally in the other, and decide to take a chance on their future.

Ava Gray does a great job giving us a believable love story with a hero and heroine that has no past history in a story less than 100 pages. Silas has a violent past, but after the earthquake, he finds himself helping people, playing the hero, a role he is not used to. It stuns him to be on the "good" side and he likes it. Juneau doesn't look upon him with fear or uncertainty as so many do. She is alone in life just like him – they are both survivors in a sense, and they bond over that. Juneau is bold and I love that about her. She soon finds out Silas's secret, and together must survive.

Ava Gray also gives us a very, very hot sex scene in this book. That added with some great action and two characters that jump right off the page, I have no complaints.

Rating: A-

#### Angel-Claimed by Jory Strong

Let me just start by saying I have never read Jory Strong and I was very confused by this story. The scion Corinne has gone missing, and it is up to Sajia, a servant to the vampires to find her. Sajia lives in a world ruled by ruthless vampires. Addai is a Djinn, and after thousands of years, his mate has been reborn. She will have no memories of him however. When Addai finds the girl (Sajia), although she thinks she is human, she is really a Djinn trapped in a human form. He must convince her she is destined for him.

Like I said, this story confused me. If you have read previous Jory Strong books, then this one might flow quite well for you. Besides a lot of characters and events happening that made me scratch my head, I didn't love the romance scenes between the hero and heroine. The hero just didn't appeal to me at all.

Rating: D

#### Primal Kiss by Lora Leigh

Kita Engalls, is an heir to a pharmaceutical empire, and has her own bodyguard in Creed Raines. Her father is not on good terms with the Breeds and fears Kita will be used against him with by the Breeds. Although he

promised her he wouldn't move against them, his behavior is pointing the other way.

Creed Raines is working undercover as Engall's security specialist. He is slowly replacing Engall's men with his men. He knows her father is an expert at betrayal, and is patiently waiting for that to happen.

This is the first Breeds book I have read. Yes, I know I have totally failed in the Lora Leigh department. I really liked this one – although the Breeds world seems immense and there are something like 23 books before this one, it is a pretty straight forward romantic story. Maybe romantic is a bit mushy, because holy wow the sex scenes are pretty intense in this one. Have I really been missing these sex scenes all my life? This definitely needs to be resolved!

Rating: B

Overall, this is a pretty solid anthology. I think everyone will enjoy the stories by Ava Gray and Lora Leigh. If you haven't read Nightshade, you will want to do so first before reading Michelle Rowen's addition. The Jory Strong story did nothing for me, but again, I have not read her Ghostland series (I am assuming this novella belongs to that series).

Overall Rating: B

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### **Ann Lorz says**

I loved the Leigh book. Who doesn't love her stories. Not a fan of first person so didn't read the Rowen. Gray's story was not bad. This was the second story of her's I've read. It wasn't that I didn't like it, I just did love it. The Strong story you can tell was from a series. When I started it I thought...I've missed something. Instead of using this story to get non-readers to read her series, she left you feeling lost.

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### **Tamara says**

had to read Primal Kiss by Lora Leigh first. It was fab as she is always! Bleeding Heart, by Michelle Rowen is the continuation of another novel Nightshade, and while I read it as stand alone it is obvious it is part of a series and doesn't really work for me. The second story by Ava Gray was also part of a series, but was easy to pick up the story line on and made me want to read more of the series (the point of anthologies I guess) The third story I could barely get thru, (my daughter skipped it after a few pages) It was VERY hard to follow, I spent most of it going Huh?

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### **Melindeeloo says**

#### **A diverse collection of authors and stories- mild and hot, naughty and nice**

Primal instincts fuel many of the love connections in this collection which pulls together four stories that vary greatly in sensuality, as well as showcasing a pretty diverse group of authors. Most of the stories are related to the authors' series - Rowen's and Gray's standalone pretty well - Leigh's requires at least some familiarity with her Breeds, and Strong is a new to me author, so I am not sure about whether or not it fits in

with her other books.

Bleeding Heart by Michelle Rowen ~\*~ A woman now carries a deadly drug in her blood. The drug turns vampires to ash with just a taste, but it is also slowly killing her, so she and her dhampyr ally are hoping to find a cure. ~\*~ This first story is a short connected to Rowen's new Nightshade series - it was the mildest of the romances and an interesting tease to Rowen's new series - in which she has supposedly left her trademark humor behind - it does fall in time after the first book, so I suspect it may be mildly spoilerish if you plan on reading Nightshade.

Skin & Bone by Ava Gray ~\*~ When an earthquake hits in Ecuador, a man with much to atone for saves a woman caught under the rubble and finally finds someone who doesn't fear him, a woman who sees him as a hero instead of the monster he considers himself to be. ~\*~ Connected to Gray's 'Skin' series, this was my favorite of the stories, I really liked both of the leads: the huge scary man who can be so gentle, and the free spirited woman who finally finds a connection she's willing to keep.

Angel Claimed by Jory Strong ~\*~ An immortal seeks to reclaim the woman he lost centuries ago, despite his dreams of how their reunion will play out, he will not simply force her to submit to his claim but will first help her to keep a vow to the vampire family she is bound to. ~\*~ I liked this one the least of the stories, the world building is interesting but confusing and I am not really into the dominance stuff (whipping, spanking, bondage). There are angels, djinn and vampires, this is my first story by this author so it may be connected to her other stories.

Primal Kiss by Lora Leigh ~\*~ Breed enforcer Creed is undercover protecting the daughter of one of the Breed's enemies, she's a potential pawn just waiting to be used - by the Breeds or by their enemies - to force her father's cooperation. But Creed's priorities may well be tested if - as he has come to suspect - she is his mate. ~\*~ My sense of this one is that if you follow the Breeds there is a revelation tied to the series arc that you will not want to miss. For me, I've read all of Leigh's stories in anthologies but only a few of her novels, so this didn't end up supplanting my favorite Breed short (I liked the one in Magical Christmas Cat the best), since - and I can't believe I am saying this - there was too much story and not enough of the romance even though there is still plenty of hot clenching, drenching, and throbbing for those who like Leigh's more explicit love scenes.

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## **Asounani says**

Ummmm giro "inesperado" fue interesante esa parte que serian las últimas 20 pag del libro

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## **Kathy Davie says**

This is an anthology of four short paranormal romance stories by Lora Leigh, Jory Strong, Michelle Rowan, and Ava Gray.

### **Series:**

"Primal Kiss" (Breeds, 23)  
"Bleeding Heart" (Nightshade, 1.5)  
"Skin & Bone" (Skin, 2.5)  
"Angel-Claimed" (Ghostland World)

### The Stories

**Lora Leigh's "Primal Kiss"** is part of her Breeds paranormal romance series. They're not shapeshifters, but men and women who were genetically created in a lab using the DNA of felines, wolves, coyotes, and marine life. They've broken out of those torturous, inhuman labs, and they are finally finding life although the Breeds must still fight for their freedom from those who don't believe they should exist...or, at least, not as humans with human rights.

The Breeds are still desperately searching for a cure for a months-old infant injected by Brandenmore as part of an experiment. In this particular story, **Jonas** has **Creed Raines** (Lion Breed) working as undercover security for **Horace Engalls**, brother-in-law and partner of **Philip Brandenmore** in researching drugs to restrain Breeds. Raines has escaped detection for over a year. A year in which he's had plenty of opportunities to attract **Kita Engalls**, the daughter.

"Primal Kiss" advances the primary storyline and, yes, the sex is good, but the story itself doesn't have much tension to it.

The primary characters in **Michelle Rowen's "Bleeding Heart"** are a dhampyr (half-human, half-vampire), **Declan**, who hunts rogue vampires for an organization and his charge, **Jill**. While held as a hostage, Jill was injected with Nightshade, a poison which, when mixed with human blood, will cause any vampire who bites her to go up in flames (see *Nightshade*, the first in the Nightshade series). That's the positive side. The negative side is that it's killing Jill, and she and Declan are desperate to find a cure. In *Bleeding Heart*, they believe they've found that cure until everything goes tits up.

I like the storyline but I could wish the writing were better.

**Jory Strong's "Skin & Bone"** makes me think of Lora Leigh's Breeds series. There are some humans who have paranormal abilities, and there are labs scattered throughout the world dedicated to capturing and experimenting on them...sound familiar? In this episode, **Silas** is caught in an earthquake in Ecuador where he's fled after he escaped one of those labs. Rescuing a young woman, **Juneau**, sets Silas off on a heroic stint in which he spends days in little Puerto Lopez helping Juneau care for other quake victims before he gets worried about detection. Juneau seems to have the same need to hit the road, and they take off together. Unused to a woman accepting him, Silas and Juneau have an uneasy trek which is made worse when Silas has to use his power to gather supplies. Juneau becomes very accepting until that detection becomes reality. Thank god for the counter-organization which is looking to recruit those gifted individuals!

In the five years he spent in the lab, Silas managed to fool the scientists into believing that he was stupid and had no powers. I have a problem with just how gullible the scientists were, if they actually believed that a professor of theoretical physics was stupid.

That's my only quibble. For the rest, their abilities seem fascinating, and I'd like to know more about **Mockingbird**, **Tanager**, **Finch**, and the rest. Juneau's family is warmly accepting, and I'm curious as to how their existence fits into the story.

**Ava Gray's "Angel-Claimed"** is a different fantasy. The humans lost the Last War, and now the vampires



are at the top of the hierarchy. Having taken over a number of cities, humans must bond themselves as blood-slaves or companions to the human child(ren) of a vampire. *Think Mob family loyalties*. In this story, the San Francisco-based **Sajia** is companion to **Corrine Tucci** who turns up missing. Major problem for Sajia as she could lose her life...brutally...as well as see harm come to her family. Frantic, Sajia starts her search in a magic shop in Oakland where she encounters a hunk who sets her body afire with desire. The hunk, **Addai**, is an angel, one of the powers on Earth, and he knows what Sajia does not. That she is the reincarnation of his long-lost love and he will allow nothing to stand in the way of his claiming her.

Although he seems a bit of a pushover as Sajia gets him to give way in everything major: he wants to take her to his lair in the Sierras while she refuses to ignore her sworn oath to the Tucci family, and then she insists on starting the search of the Bay that afternoon when he would prefer to wait 'til morning. Of course, Addai does make use of her resistance to push memories and sexual images of her submitting to his bondage, so I suspect he doesn't mind the major and minor rebellions too much.

It's actually an interesting little story in which Gray has managed to cram a ton of information about this world. I'm curious to find more.

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### **Mspink says**

Primal Kiss (Breeds series) - by Lora Leigh. I will never stop reading this series. I'm committed. But I have to admit that I don't enjoy them as much as before. And that really bothers me. Because I'm a huge fan and always will be. Probably the first 10 books or so were the most powerful for me. They seem a bit predictable to me now. I admire LL's ability to describe things and her attention to so much technical detail also speaks very well of her writing talent. But the plot lines have been a bit rushed for me in the last few books. Sometimes the H/H are so combative and always at odds, its difficult when they finally do get together. I'm already so frustrated with them. HOWEVER, I love this series nonetheless. I'm a breed-a-holic!

This story was short and sweet. Kita and Creed figured things out pretty quickly and I loved her receptiveness towards him. It was a welcome change. He was yummy and totally tough-guy alpha male! She was strong but feminine. Its an interesting twist to find out her father's "role" with the breed community is...

Looking forward to the next full length story coming soon!

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### **Rosy says**

This novella was actually very good, even in size. I only wish Leigh would get a better editor or beta. There were so many repetitive parts, that someone like me who doesn't notice those things, got annoyed by it.

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### **~V~ says**

Only read the Breeds anthology for now. For me, it was just ok. I did like it better than some of the past Breed anthologies..some of the older ones i really didn't care for...although the series as a whole i LOVE! This particular story was centered around Creed, a lion breed enforcer. I think that i maybe didn't feel a very strong connection w/ this story because i didn't really know a whole lot about Creed..i remember him being

mentioned in some of the past books, but i don't feel that i knew him enough to feel fully invested in his HEA. With any antho. it's sometimes hard to feel a connection to the story when it is so short and rushed, which is what may have been the problem...not enough time to fully get to know the characters.

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~\*~**Princess Nhya**~\*~ says

BLEEDING HEART

RATING:\*\*

SENSUALITY:\*\*

PLOT:\*\*

This one was just okay for me. Although I was intrigued enough to purchase the 1st book based on these characters.

SKIN & BONE

RATING:\*\*\*

SENSUALITY:\*\*/HALF

PLOT:\*\*\*

I really liked the characters in this one. The pacing for the setting and what makes these two tick were done superbly. I will definitely be checking out "Skin Heat"

ANGEL CLAIMED

RATING:\*\*/HALF

SENSUALITY: \*\*

PLOT:\*

This was my least favorite out of the four. This one just was not all that interesting to me.

PRIMAL KISS

RATING:\*\*\*\*

SENSUALITY:\*\*\*\*/HALF

PLOT:\*\*\*\*

You already know that Ms. Leigh delivered once again with this brief installment to the "Breed" series. Hot, engaging, emotional, but most importantly believable. I loved Creed he was HAWT!

Overall the entire book was a pretty good read. I would recommend it.

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**Kathryn says**

*Primal* is a collection of novellas from 4 paranormal romance authors, each taking place in the middle of an

already published series. This means that the book is a horrible place to begin for any reader interested in the authors.

As a rule, I dislike anthologies. As many readers have pointed out, some anthologies can feel like a rip off, including essential stories only available in the collection. Completist readers find this frustrating. Yet this collection, since it only includes 4 popular authors and the novellas are not necessary to enjoy the full length novels, I can happily say that I think this is a book worth buying, if the reader is interested and familiar with at least two of the authors. I have so far only read 2 of the novellas but based on those, I hope to look up the other two authors and give them a try as well. See, the whole purpose of this anthology worked on me!

*Primal Kiss* by Lora Leigh was exactly like all of her other novels and novellas belonging in the *Breed* series. So, there were no surprises. I have the impression that Leigh simply cut a few chapters, mostly the getting-to-know-you chapters, as this novella is not lacking in steamy scenes.

*Skin and Bone* by Ava Gray is the real reason I bought this. I enjoy her *Skin* series and was hugely interested in a story about Silas. This novella takes place after book 3, but can be read after book 2, just not before. Obviously, since he wasn't introduced until book 2. But I liked the characters and the setting. I really wish this had been written and published as a full length novel. But Gray included some very interesting tidbits here and there. I hope Mockingbird plays a larger role in future books. With book 4 being published soon, the wait will not be long.

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