



The Shift

Kate Sherwood

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Two men, too many monsters.

Raised off the grid, Cash has trained all his life to protect humanity from The Shift—a mysterious force that creates monsters capable of unspeakable destruction. For Cash and his warrior family, risks are just part of the job and death is an ever-present possibility.

When his daredevil tendencies defeat a monster but leave him over his head in a puddle of green goo, Cash figures his number is up...until he's plucked to safety by a devastatingly handsome stranger.

Toby needs no weapons to fight The Shift, that's why he's perfected the art of laying low. Sudden moves draw unwanted attention, but he can't stand by and watch Cash drown. Big mistake—it isn't long before Cash is returning the favor, rescuing him from kidnappers intent on harnessing his genetic enhancements.

On the run with danger nipping at their heels, romantic sparks fly between them. But there's no trust without truth, and things get complicated when Toby reveals everything Cash has fought against is a lie. The time has come to decide who's the real monster—and whose side he's on.

Warning: Super-romance, Super-sex, Super-heroism. Super-hot. Moments of Super-cute.

The Shift Details

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From Reader Review The Shift for online ebook

Tam says

This was an okay read if you are looking for some action. A bit of a fast falling in lust/love and I never really got all of the political background about who is running/organizing who and why, but it kept me entertained and I liked the main characters well enough.

Meggie says

The storyline was bland and undeveloped. I agree, the idea for this plot is kind of fresh and interesting, but the way it was written and developed, it wasn't good enough. I'm sure it could be better. Mostly I enjoy post apocalyptic themes, but here something didn't feel right. Sure we got some background informations about "The Shift", but it was to little and it felt unreal. The main romance, between Toby and Cash, was also undeveloped. And the way this story ended, didn't feel right.

Ami says

In a sort of post-apocalyptic timeline, The Shift is a mysterious force that creates monster, a result of a scientific research gone wrong. Cash and his family has trained themselves to protect innocent people from The Shift monsters, working under an organization. During one fight, Cash is trapped inside The Shift's ooze, and he is rescued by a handsome stranger. But the stranger, Toby, has a secret of his own -- he is more than he seems. And when Cash finds out, he must make a decision, which side he is on.

...

The product warning from Samhain for this one (which, I always think is a the unique marketing plot that sets aside Samhain from others *grin*) says "*Super-romance, Super-sex, Super-heroism. Super-hot. Moments of Super-cute*". Well, I totally agree on the last one.

Written solely from Cash's point of view (third person), I find his voice to be humorous, which makes it fun to read. He is young and has a rebel streak, and I wholeheartedly enjoy his daredevil action and the attraction to Toby, the handsome stranger. Despite being sort of urban fantasy, with the idea of The Shift, it's not cluttered with difficult technical words -- and the pace is pretty quick and easy to follow. The epilogue just oozes cuteness.

Love it :)

Joanne says

This book is awesome. Just amazing. Its a wonderful story. Toby is so sweet, and Cash tries to be so strong. Its just lovely, and suprisingly funny in places. Strangely its not a book that appealed to me at the begining as I am not one for superheros, but I do like Kate Sherwood's writing so I figured I'd give it a try and it turned out to be a lovely suprise.

Personally I'd like a sequel.....if your reading this Kate....please?

Tamara says

Too short. I wish the book was longer. There were great bones just needed more flesh.

Danni says

3.5 stars

I liked the idea of this book and it started really well. There was some good world building, but then somehow it didn't really continue. Everything got wrapped up quickly, and I would have liked some more story, background, current action and a future.

The story was really good, the idea was really good, the characters were good. I just would have liked more.

(in my copy it also ended on page 223 of 252 (the rest were previews), so that might have contributed to the feeling of not getting enough)

Didi says

This is a sort-of super-heroes story. A bunch of regular people with trained fighting skill to fight monsters and save their city. Then came along the true super hero, a clone with super powers.

I like the story fine; there is a quick chemistry flared between the hero and super hero, some intimate moments. But overall, I think the author cut this story too short. Although there is a bit of background information about the Shift, the creator an everything, it's not enough. There could be more and, I can't believe I'm saying this, there could be more villainous characters to make the story more exciting! :D

Unless, it is the author's intention to make this into a series (!) and keep other drama, characters (good or bad), secrets or whatever for the next story. Who knows...

Paisley says

Hmmmm, I am struggling with my rating on this one. I didn't love it but it wasn't awful either - I think I really wanted more and felt a bit unsatisfied with the whole experience.

I actually thought I would check on Goodreads and find it was a series, and that there was another after this one. If that were the case then I would have probably rated it higher but as a stand alone piece it wasn't quite enough for me.

There were some pretty cool aspects to this story. The world building was interesting and the whole concept was intriguing but a bit confusing too. I liked the characters enough to want more and wish there was another story that followed.

Kazza says

2.5 stars really.

This book started off with promise but it just didn't go anywhere.

Cash was part of a family that fought against The Shift, which is never fully explained or fleshed out. Apparently 'monsters' appear at The Shift sight and Cash and his family fight the 'monsters' with their own technology. The latest 'technology' is basically liquid nitrogen, freezing the 'monsters' to give the team enough time to hopefully destroy them, not terribly new age or futuristic. Cash was the young son but suddenly, after leaving his family for a few days for a tryst with Toby, he took over as the leader from the 'fierce' father, Jack.

Toby is a cloned son of the scientist that created The Shift, I still don't know how his father created it, just that he is reviled for it. Toby helps Cash out of monster goop at the first Shift we read about. Cash keeps thinking of Toby as "nice", and good looking. Jack, Cash's father knows Toby, that he is the son of The Shift creator. He thinks he is a bad guy by biological (or cloning) association, nothing personal, and keeps tabs on him handing him over to "the suits" for the good of mankind. Cash steps in foils "the suits" from whisking Toby away, and they have a short, yet meaningful, sexual encounter.

The characters were nice enough, Kayla, Cash's sister doesn't say much but she has his "back", I know because it's one of the few things she says. Kenny and Brad, I think that's their names, his brothers say little as well. As I said Jack, the dad, has a personality change mid book, from an inflexible 'believer' to ceding power to his son, Cash.

It wasn't a bad book, it was clean and neat, but I needed more depth, more passion, more belief in The Shift and what it actually was, I needed more world building and relationship building. The sex was well written, albeit brief. I think the setting was supposed to be futuristic, but it just didn't read that way, it could have been now, it could have been in the 80's! Cash and Toby were nice enough characters but there really wasn't any belief from me about their relationship.

The Shift just didn't quite take the theme far enough for me personally.

Ayanna says

"Hell, I even sleep with women sometimes, if I'm in a weird mood."

What a world we live in...Guys sleeping with women? Inconceivable!

It's weird because I seem to believe people capable of almost everything except genuine stupidity. You'd think that after so long I'd learn better.

Overall...

Eh. Meh.

...It was an interesting concept? Parts of it were good-ish and I liked the base premise, but the way some of the things were worked and the whole awkward turtle clusterfuck towards the middle...

It was still good-ish, I think.

The ending was "wtf where did it go?"

Bubbles Hunty Honest & Direct Opinions says

This is way too short and way too rushed.

I was going to give two stars for the first 20% but then the end sucked too much. Book ends at 89% then there is a bunch of spam.

I was really liking the beginning then the guys meet and have sex right away and it pulled me out of the story. Just like wtf they're having sex now? Already? And then it was so long between them starting with kissing to oral and finishing with anal one of the guys had time to run out buy lube and pick up lunch. It was just like total story killer IMO and the sex wasn't even hot. Mostly just talking and worrying if it's too rough. It was really disappointing watching the story be killed by a pointless extremely long sex scene.

(view spoiler)

Talk about false advertising. This is on the publishers website: "*Product Warnings*

Super-romance, Super-sex, Super-heroism. Super-hot. Moments of Super-cute.

Be warned there is NO romance. They meet, they fuck, they separate till end of the book.

Super hot was really just super long, boring, and plane, they talk too much sex.

Moments of super cute? Where? When? This was so short it's absurd. It had a lot of potential but really failed to deliver. Really felt like it was just written as quick as possible to make some money and there was no real investment in it.

Probably the most disappointing book I've read in a long time.

Mickie says

This book was a great read.

It was scifi (AWESOME)

It was kind of super heroish (EXTTRA-AWESOME)

It was just a lot of fun once I started reading I couldn't put it down.

My only complaint would be that it was too short so some of the details I would have loved to see are missing.

Sherry says

3.25 stars

I waited to review this story because it needed to stew for awhile. In the end, what MandyM says below expresses it best! :-)

Cash is from a family of fighters defending humans against the destructive beings created by the Shift. At one battle he is saved by the mysterious Toby who is somehow related to the horrible creations.

Kind of a strange short story. You never really find out what the Shift is or how the beings are created. Although it was interesting and the romance followed the usual m/m romance formula I was left dissatisfied.

I'm not exactly sure **why** slightly dissatisfied; for me, something just didn't entirely "grab" me.

Recommended. This author remains an automatic purchase for me.

Cole Riann says

Review posted at The Armchair Reader.

What seemed like a horror romance from the blurb turned out to be a semi-lighthearted romance in this novella. The romance is pretty toned down and much of the book is about fighting the mysterious force the characters call The Shift in a never-ending battle for dominance over the human race.

Cash is the baby brother in a family of fighters. Perhaps it is because, as the baby, he can get away with more than his siblings that he's grown into a bit of a reckless man, but when they're fighting the The Shift, he's always the one to dive in head first. So it isn't a surprise that he's caught in a bind when Toby saves him, having sunk into the mess of green goo the creature turned into when he was killed by Cash repeatedly hacking into his neck while riding his shoulders, hobbit-style. Cash is immediately smitten, but is told to leave Toby alone by Jack, the patriarch of the family, because they're thinking of interviewing Toby as a witness. But Cash doesn't want to wait. After all, it's hard finding a hookup, not to mention a guy he might actually end up caring about, when you're constantly waiting for another fight. So when Jack's "interview" with Toby is done in radio silence and seems to look more like a fight, Cash defies orders and stays behind to get the truth from Toby, only to be forced to save the man in turn. The answers Cash wants open the floodgates to secrets much larger than he could have imagined, and Cash is divided by his newfound feelings for Toby and his loyalty to the good fight.

I enjoy reading horror from time to time, which is why I picked up this novella. But I was still pleasantly surprised to find a more lighthearted story, not horror at all, more a mad scientist and superhero story. The real story here is not in the romance. The actual time that Cash and Toby spend together is pretty small, and

even at the end of the actual story (there's an epilogue, of a sort) they still don't know one another very well, other than having the knowledge that when they're together they can burn the sheets off the bed (NOT one of the superpowers :D). I would have liked to have more time to see the two of them together. Since this story is pretty short, it might be that the author is planning to make this a series, but judging from the ending, it could go either way.

No, the real story here is about Cash. He's a great character and the story is told completely from his POV (we don't get to know Toby nearly as well as even Cash's family and team). There are several fight scenes, where we get to see The Shift in all their grody glory. I use grody deliberately, as they're gross, for sure, but also a little funny, in a b-side The Blob kind of way. Much of the story is Cash's reaction to meeting Toby and learning that he doesn't really know if what he's fighting for is the right thing. The pseudo-philosophical conversations he has with his father Jack are some of the best parts of the story and a coming of age for Cash.

I'd definitely read more if Kate Sherwood spun this into a series. I think there's a lot more to be told, especially about The Shift, which are largely still a mystery to me. Also, I think the possibility of regrouping and expanding the team would make for a really interesting story, as well as the implications of that to the world at large. This is a Pretty Good story — it wasn't spectacular, but I think it has the possibility to become a good series if Ms. Sherwood were so inclined.

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

This is definitely an intriguing story. Based in a sort of post-apocalyptic setting, this story also dabbles in the paranormal and deals with genetically altered humans. I enjoyed the story because of the compelling elements within the plot but I also felt like it had so much potential but didn't live up to said potential.

I liked the characters and how different they were. Cash is a stubborn, careless but funny man who believes in what's right but wants answers for why he's supposed to do things. Toby is a bit uptight and in control because he needs to be with what he is. They match up because Toby grounds Cash while Cash gives Toby the ability to let go. I really enjoyed that fact.

However, this story was so short, it read more like an outline than an actual book. It was too rushed and while there are details, there aren't enough. This world is so extravagant, it could have been explored more and the story could have been truly awesome if it was taken slow. Especially with the fact that Cash and Toby spend maybe two days together in all (half of it in bed together) but once they separate they acted like they'd known each other years. There was no connection between them, though, so it was hard to understand where these feelings of such intense longing and protectiveness were coming from.

Overall, I liked the story. It wasn't as good as I was expecting and I don't believe it lived up to its potential but it was a nice, quick book with enough happening and enough suspense for me to keep reading. The world is definitely intriguing and the characters are nice together but their connection isn't shown, it's told. I wouldn't be opposed to reading another story set in this world, maybe one that actually explores Toby and Cash's relationship, but definitely one that delves deeper into these creatures and Cash's team fighting them.
