



## Cynful

*Dana Marie Bell*

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# **Cynful**

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To save the woman he loves, he must push his gifts to the brink.

Halle Shifters, Book 2

Julian DuCharme, a rare Spirit Bear with legendary healing powers, is finally free from the threat of death, finally free to claim his mate—but she's not having it. While his Bear screams it's time to mate, the love of his life wants to date.

Holding his Bear in check while convincing her he's not out to control her won't be easy. She's stubborn and a closeted geek—in other words, perfect for him.

Cynthia “Cyn” Reyes, owner of Living Art Tattoos, thinks Julian is the hottest thing on two legs. That doesn't mean she's going to roll over for his masculine charm. She watched her mother flounder when her father passed away, and she's determined to never lose herself to someone else. Not even a man who would jump the moon for her, if she asked that of him.

When the women of Living Art are targeted by a killer, Julian doesn't think twice about pouring out his last drop of power  
to keep Cyn safe. But it's Cyn who'll give up everything—her independence, even her humanity—to keep a terrifying vision  
from coming true.

One of his death.

Warning: This novel contains explicit sex, graphic language, a tattooed heroine and the Bear who loves her. Maybe he'll finally convince her to tattoo him with “Property of Cyn”.

## **Cynful Details**

Date : Published June 19th 2012 by Samhain Publishing, Ltd.

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Author : Dana Marie Bell

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## From Reader Review Cynful for online ebook

### t'irla ~The Bookslayer~ t'irla's Talk Book Blog says

Action! Adventure! WereBears!!!! Werewolves!! and Pumas! OH MY!!!

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My Thoughts:

Each book I read in the Halle Puma then Halle Shifters sagas I fall a little more in love with all the characters. The fact that DMB works them all back into the stories even if it is just a short visit it is fabulous to see them. In this full length novel we are able to get more indepth with both the characters and the story. I love all the small nuances that have been weaved into the characters we have met in past books. How this characters interact with our new characters also help us learn more about the new characters as we come across them in story lines. This plot gives me everything I look for in a book suspense, mystery, laughs, danger all written with characters I have become emotionally attached to and in a "world" where it all makes sense. I think this is my favorite DMB book and I really hope to see more of her Halle books soon!

If you are looking for a quirky, witty, funny, fast paced romp this book will surely give it to you. I give it a

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sold 4.5 stars and much love. I hope you join me in the discovery of a wonderful series.

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### **Steph says**

I have been waiting desperately for this book for a year now, since reading Bear Necessities last May.

I am really sad to say that this book just fell a little flat for me. I'm sure that Bear Necessities was funnier and sexier than this book. Or it might be that in the last year I have read so many more books that my reading tastes have changes... I'm not sure.

I did enjoy reading the book and Julian was absolutely adorable. I loved the way he kept fluttering his eyelashes at everyone (even the guys) to get his own way.

It was great to see Tabby, Alex, Glory and Ryan again. They all had that great chemestry, a group of friends you would love to hang out with. But again I had my problems. Things got a little tough and Alex just runs off, carrying Tabby with him like a defenceless toddler. *What the hell?* That really annoyed me!

Now I know that Glory had a rough time in this book, getting shot and all. But *holy crap* did I want to slap her. She was being such a bitch to poor Ryan. He actually hasn't done anything wrong, but want to be with his mate. He shows her nothing but kindness and respect (and a real good laugh) and all he get's in return is what seems to be a snotty teenager, with a stinking attitude! I really disliked her by the end of the book, even though she seems to work it out with Ryan, I think he should have made her apologise a thousand times before he even considered being with her. But the poor guy was too desperate! :)

I just don't understand what happened. One minute Cyn couldn't possibly be with Julian, then the lines seemed to blur and all of a sudden they were a couple. *When the hell did that happen?*

The storyline of Tabby's old Alpha (who has just been exiled by his son Micah, because he's a complete jackass) coming for revenge on Tabby, but who then appeared to target Cyn throughout the entire book. It just didn't make sense to me.

Now I know it seems like I disliked this book, but I swear I did enjoy reading it. lol  
It was just when the book finished, I just felt a bit deflated and disappointed, but maybe I had just set my hopes a little too high.

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### **Lady Lioness says**

This probably would have been five stars except I thought the beginning was much stronger than the end. Julian gets emotionally overcome at one point and starts to cry. So sue me, I find it disconcerting when grown men cry, unless a funeral is involved.

Anyways, this was book 6 on my list of [The Ten 2012 Books I Would Exercise Every Day for Two Weeks For](#). Overall, I have to say it would have been worth exercising for. Julian's attempts to bring Cyn around to his way of thinking were humorous and I loved the bits of geekery thrown in. I giggled delightedly at the girls' masquerade costumes.

All of the previous couples were featured, not just Alex & Tabby, and things got a bit crowded. I definitely wouldn't recommend this as a stand-alone. You need to at least read [Bear Necessities](#). My other quibble is that I would have liked to seen more of Chloe. Also, a prophecy is introduced that begins in [Cynful](#), but it's never completed and I hate waiting to see the meaning of these things.

If I had to hazard a guess, I would suppose that Bell has at least another two books in mind for this world, perhaps three. If you are a paranormal fan, I encourage you to start with [The Wallflower](#). However, I have to admit that, personally, I prefer [Bear Necessities](#) as I think the *Halle Shifter* series is shaping up to be stronger than the Pumas.

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### **Jamie ~ Bad Boy Inspector says**

I really enjoyed this read. Cyn is one of my favorite characters in the Halle community and I knew I would love her book. Cyn and Julian make a great couple because he is all laid back healer type while she is the fierce protector. I also love how close knit all the friends and family are.

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### **The BookChick says**

**My Rating:** ★★★★

#### **Book Description:**

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When the women of Living Art are targeted by a killer, Julian doesn't think twice about pouring out his last drop of power to keep Cyn safe. But it's Cyn who'll give up everything—her independence, even her humanity—to keep a

terrifying vision from coming true.

### **My Thoughts:**

I love Dana Marie Bell. She is quirky, witty, and funny and I follow most of her series because of that. The story of Julian and Cyn continues the Halle Shifters series which is a spinoff of the Halle Pumas series. We see more of Cyn's feisty but caring nature and Julian's steely determination to win his mate. Their pairing was fraught with several challenges but the couple met them head on. I like how Bell integrates other characters stories into the primary story without losing focus on the primary one. I am interested in seeing how Chloe and the mysterious prophesy will play out in future books in the series. I loved it.

**Reading Time:** 4.5 hours

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### **Elizabeth Wheeler says**

Great, fun, sexy, and action packed. I'm falling in love with this series.

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### **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Gennie's review posted on Guilty Pleasures

#### **4.5 Stars**

Cynful by Dana Marie Bell is the second book of the Halle Shifters series, which is a spinoff series of the Halle Pumas. This is a good next installment in the series, but you probably will want to review all the previous books, including the Halle Puma books, before you read this book because ALL the characters from Halle are in play in this installment.

Cynthia "Cyn" Reyes is the fully human, quirky (and closet geek) tattoo artist of Halle's Living Art. Cyn considers the women who work at Living Art to be family and will do whatever it takes to keep them safe. We met Cyn in the first book along with Cyn's mate, Spirit Bear shifter, Julian. Cyn is afraid of becoming too attached to man and resists the idea that Julian is her mate. Even though she thinks his sexy as hell, she just doesn't want to end up like her mom. So Cyn decides to make Julian court her.

Julian is a gentle soul whose gift is healing others. He may be gentle, but he is also very sure of what he wants and will fight to get it, even if Cyn fights him every step of the way. Unfortunately for Cyn and Julian, they don't have the luxury of time and space to work out their issues because there is a mad man on the loose hunting all the women of Living Art.

I really enjoyed the interplay between the two main characters and their friends/family. I liked getting to see glimpses of characters I hadn't heard about in a while, mainly the leadership of the Halle Puma pack. One drawback to having closely interwoven characters is that if you don't read the stories back to back to back, it's easy to get lost in trying to remember the details of who's who. But there were enough clues given by Ms. Bell for me to remember fairly quickly where everyone belonged.

If you like paranormal books with lots of humor, sizzle, and geeky references than this books for you!

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### **Melindeeloo says**

Yay, Julian finally. I have been looking forward to this bearshifter's story since reading the previous book, Bear Necessities. I just thought that the 'spirit bear' thing was so cool, the visions, the healing powers and the whole shamanic mystical aura surrounding him.

Even with all that - plus some first class hunkiness going on as well - Julian is going to have to work to get his mate to accept him. Cyn's human and wants to - gasp - date, before she'll let him get past first base much less let him mate her with his bite. But Julian is pretty hard to resist and with danger swirling around Cyn and her best friends, Cyn is going to do everything in her power to protect those she holds dear - and that comes to include Julian.

I really liked Cynful, and since Cyn keeps Julian out of the bedroom for a fair amount of the book, there is actually time to get to know both of the characters - including their geeky sides - before the steamy stuff commences. One of the things that I liked the best in the book is that Cyn gets her own 'spirit quest', and I liked when she is telling Julian about it later as well - the differences in their journeys really fit who they are as characters.

One thing that that fans of the previous Halle series will likely enjoy (but, since I've only read one of the Halle Puma books, was just okay for me) is that all of the past leads get to gather together again for a pizza party. (Fans of the Pumas will like that there is some good news for one of the past starring pairs too.)

So, I gobbled down this episode of 'bears in Halle' in one sitting and am looking forward to poor Ryan getting a shot at his hard to get mate, Glory, and also hoping that there are enough books in this series that a HEA is in the works for the still healing Chloe too (wonder if we'll see a new side of her when she's finally able to shift again.)

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### **Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says**

Originally posted at: <http://whippedcream2.blogspot.com/201...>

Cynthia 'Cyn' Reyes hopes life settles down now that her friend has finally mated. And she knows that Julian DuCharme is more than likely just what he says, her mate and a rare Spirit Bear shifter. But sometimes, a girl just wants to be courted and wooed, not taken for granted. When folks just keep trying to kill her and destroy her Tattoo shop, she will do whatever it takes to protect those she cares for. Julian DuCharme, for all his strength and powers, is determined to give Cyn what she wants: a proper courtship with all the trimmings. At least that's the plan, until Cyn and the others become targets. Then Julian is determined to claim his mate so she will be stronger and more able to survive if things get worse. The one question is, when Julian does finally turn Cyn, what will she be? Can Julian court Cyn to her satisfaction? Together, can they catch the ones targeting them?

Cynful is Dana Marie Bell's second Halle Shifter book, and a fantastic follow up to Bear Necessities. I like

that she's kept everyone from the first book together, and expands this world a bit more. She has also brought in some old friends, from the Halle Puma series, and I loved seeing them again as well. All of Ms. Bell's characters are well defined, strong and charismatic. This world is one I love, and hope to visit often, filled with so many intriguing folks.

Cynthia 'Cyn' Reyes is a strong and independent woman. She's attracted to Julian, but hates the idea that her life depends on some fated mate. She wants to date and be courted, and I loved some of the things she put Julian through on their dates. She knows at some point he'll need to claim her and mate her, but she's determined to have it be on her terms, not Fate's. She's smart enough to realize, when the attacks escalate, she needs the strength being Julian's mate will provide. She'll be turned, but on her terms, when she's good and ready.

Julian DuCharme is hot, sexy and one of the rarest of shifters, a Spirit Bear. He has the power to heal, and he uses it in his role as a nurse at the local clinic. He knew Cyn was his mate the first time he saw her, and his frustration at the wait is driving him crazy. But he's willing to do things Cyn's way, at least until the danger comes their way again. I love Julian's determination, and his willingness to follow Cyn's lead in this courtship. He won me over with his gentle nature when he works with the patients, and his fierce loyalty to friends and loved ones.

This is a fast paced and action packed story, with romance, danger and mystery around every corner. The secondary characters here are as strong as Julian and Cyn, and the addition of some of the Halle Pumas adds to the familiarity and fun. Of course, this has lots of Dana Marie Bell's scorching hot sex, and the big surprise of what Cyn becomes is fantastic (and I'm not giving spoilers here on that). There's a happy ever after here, but it's hard won, and not without peril. This is for those who like humor with their romance, and a side of danger to spice it up.

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## Cruth says

**Author:** Dana Marie Bell

**First published:** 2012

**Length:** 4280 kindle locations

**Setting:** Halle, Pennsylvania. Contemporary (six weeks after book: *Bear Necessities* [8478990]).

**Sex:** explicit, frequent (heading to erotica).

**Hero:** Spirit Bear shifter and nurse (healer).

**Heroine:** Owns Tattoo parlour. Human. BFF of Tabby from book: *Bear Necessities* [8478990].

**Includes:** Excerpts from *Artistic Vision* by Dana Marie Bell, *Savage Hunter* by Shelli Stevens, *Wolf Line* by Vivian Arend.

What a lot of fun! Reminiscent of Shelly Laurenston and Eve Langlais at their witty best, *Cynful* took quirky, inked characters, confident with who they are and willing to do their all for their HEA and gave them a solid, creative story to thrive in.

And Bell added references and characters from her other series (Halle Pumas, Poconos Pack) giving the World a whole lot of depth and colour.

Fun, easy. A Good Read.

**Halle Shifters:**

Book 1 Bear Necessities - Alexander "Bunny" Bunsun (Bear) and Tabitha Garwood (wolf)

Book 2 Cynful - Julian DuCharme (Spirit Bear) and Cynthia "Cyn" Reyes (human)

Book 2.5 Bear With Me (holiday short story)

Book 3 Bear Naked - Ryan Williams (bear) and Glory Walsh (human)

Book 4 Figure of Speech - Chloe Williams (fox) and James Woods (human/wolf)

**References:**

Author's website: <http://www.danamariebell.com/Cynful.html>

(ISBN 978-1-61921-159-9)

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**Jen says**

[how quickly Cyn went from denying she was Julian's mate to begging hi

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**Nevena Pejcic Neca says**

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/2242652...>

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**Gennie Gee says**

4.5

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### **I ♥ Bookie Nookie ([bookienookiereviews.blogspot.com](http://bookienookiereviews.blogspot.com)) says**

CYNFUL was written with the sexy humor that I have come to expect from Dana Marie Bell, but I was a little let down with this book overall.

I don't like to write spoilers in my reviews, so let's just say that I didn't feel that Julian behaved like I thought his character should have behaved. I know she wanted to portray him as sort of a gentle giant, but a bear with the desire to claim his mate should have been more aggressive... I didn't buy it!

\*\* Reviewed on I ♥ Bookie Nookie Reviews

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If you like this type of book, you might enjoy one of these groups. Check us out!

Menage Readers

Erotic Enchants

Bookie Nookie's Erotic Lending Group

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### **MostlyDelores says**

I actually like Cyn better in this book than I did in Bear Necessities, but man was Glory annoying. And Emma. Emma was fine in Wallflower, but she's been kind of horrible ever since. That "the female of the species is deadlier than the male, except not really, look how cute she is, but seriously she will cut you". That. A little goes a long way.

I enjoyed it, but it was crowded with cameos from all kinds of previous books, and the plot seemed a little... unfinished?

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