



## Flesh and Blood

*Jay Bell*

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Nikolai's life was good but simple. He ran the local tavern and was respected by those who knew him. But sometimes life was lonely. When Nikolai decides to help a woman in need, he soon learns that nothing is what it seems. Inside or out, flesh and blood can be deceptive. This free short story explores Nikolai's origins, a character introduced in the fantasy novel "The Cat in the Cradle."

## Flesh and Blood Details

Date : Published October 9th 2010 by Smashwords

ISBN :

Author : Jay Bell

Format : ebook 9 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Romance, M M Romance, Young Adult, Lgbt, Short Stories

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## From Reader Review Flesh and Blood for online ebook

### **Jim says**

Short and Sweet.

A nice companion book to The Cat in the Cradle and gives a welcome perspective to the Nikolai Character. Learn how fate turned Nikolai into the beast he became and why despite gaining his freedom he decided to stay and dedicate himself to the well being of the animals left behind.

I would read Cat in the Cradle before reading this though.

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### **K.C. Beaumont says**

I was debating reading this before reading The Cat in the Cradle, but being a fan of Mr. Bell's work (and broke, so I don't yet have my coveted copy of TCITC) I decided to read it anyway. Very interesting take on werewolves. This is the first time I read a werewolf legend where a person was changed this way. Nikolai's story was a sad one, and I definitely look forward to reading more about him in the novel.

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### **Ben says**

Fun stuff. Left me eager to read more!

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### **Karin Wollina says**

I really hope there will be more about maybe Kio ? New adventures ? Please....

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### **Lena Grey says**

"Flesh and Blood" by Jay Bell is a great story to read in addition to Jay's first book, 'The Cats in the Cradle'. It's a prequel explaining the past of one of my favorite characters, Nikolai. The mysterious Nickolai is a werewolf who takes an unusually nurturing role with the other animals in the story. Nikolai's tale is a dark one as it explains how he came to be a werewolf; however the information gleaned from it more clearly explains what he has become. Even though his past is sad, the story gave me a hint of a happier life to come. As usual, Jay's unique style of story telling is filled with vivid description and emotion making the short story seem longer than it was. I loved the story and can't wait for more.

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## **Elspeth says**

Interesting and well written, I cannot wait to read the main series!

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## **Grampy says**

"Flesh and Blood" by Jay Bell is a short "bridge" between the first and second tales in the Loka Legend series. Two main characters, who obviously figure prominently in the other books, are working up a garden, using all primitive tools. The man, Nikolai, is criss-crossed with scars across his back from severe beatings at some time in his past. Nevertheless, as he pulls the manure cart along, Lali, the girl, enjoys seeing his muscles strain and bulge along his back.

When they finish with the garden work, Lali prompts Nikolai to tell her his story; although reluctant, he relents. What will she learn about him? How did he get all those scars? Why is he living alone in this remote location? And why does he turn away every time Lali gets a little close to him?

This tale provides useful character background information relevant to the first and second tales in the series. Many of the characters in this fantasy are either shape-shifters or magicians. The plot focuses on a mysterious, unknown man who is tracking down the 10 Oligarchs and killing them, one by one. After he kills them, he takes their magic stones. At the rate he is going, it is obvious he intends to possess all the stones, which will then mean all the magic will reside in him. This does not bode well for the rest of the planet. Nikolai was once captured by an Oligarch, and witnessed his death at the hands of the mysterious stranger. Consequently he himself may become targeted for death one day.

This was a short story, but it did pique my interest in the rest of the series. There was an unexpected little twist at the end that pretty well doubled my overall interest. I recommend this to fans of fantasy fiction. I suspect you, too, will want to pursue the whole series after you've read this little episode. There was no unsuitable content that would limit this tale to only older teens; it is quite acceptable for middle graders on up to however old the oldest fantasy fan may be!

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