



Under Her Skin

Margo Bond Collins

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Lindi Parker works hard at being human, not an easy task for a weresnake. She has no desire to search for others like her—until a new case changes everything. When Lindi learns that she's not the only shapeshifter in the world, she realizes she might be next on a killer's list.

In order to save herself and the abused children she works with, she will have to team up with Dr. Kade Nevala, a member of the shifter tribe responsible for eradicating weresnakes—and the most attractive man Lindi's ever met. Even more terrifying, she'll need to embrace her serpent side, a choice that has enormous consequences for Lindi, and for everyone around her.

Under Her Skin Details

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From Reader Review Under Her Skin for online ebook

Lexxi Kitty says

During the ordinary course of her job as a children's counsellor, Lindi Parker helps on a case involving a young female child who killed her abusive step-father. She goes with that child in the ambulance but instead of going to the children's hospital, the place Parker would normally find herself in a situation like this, they go to a different one. But then she already knows things are different this time. For the little girl lets her know that she knows that Parker is a shifter. And that the hospital that they were going to is the shifter hospital.

Of course Lindi Parker knew she herself is a shifter. She didn't know, though, that there were other shifters out there or that what she was is detectable by others. She didn't know because her (adoptive) father, a snake scientist (not actual term used but I don't want to take the time to look it up), had found her when gathering snakes to examine. Later, expecting to find a snake in the container he had put the snake, he found instead a baby (or a toddler, I forget now). Then watches as the child morphs from human to snake and back again. That man, a Dr. Parker, and his wife adopt the small weresnake and teach her to be human.

Lindi is concerned/alarmed and curious about this development, but it isn't the time to talk about shifters with a little traumatised girl. Later.

Then, once everyone is at the hospital, Lindi is confronted by the girl's doctor (some might call the confrontation something approaching a sexual assault, which Lindi did, one or more occasions later). Luckily for her, that doctor goes somewhat against his own instincts, for he is a weremongoose. And they are supposed to kill snakes (instead of force kisses on them while thrusting them against walls).

And the story unfolds from there - a weresnake and weremongoose circling; introduction to the shifter community; almost immediate instinctual hatred towards Lindi from the community for what she is - the snake part; and a mystery to solve. For almost before anyone can catch their breath, Lindi finds herself working on a case, with this same doctor (Kade), that involves the death of children.

The story was quite interesting and good. But then this isn't the first book I've read by this author, and the others were . . . um, good. hmm, I only see one other book I've read by this author. I rather thought I'd read at least one more than that. No matter, both (or however many there actually have been) books I've read have been good.

One note: Mongoose lets Lindi in on what she is exactly and no, they don't call her 'weresnake'. She's a lamia. Which I mention for two reasons - throughout the story I kept seeing and hearing it in my mind as 'llama' *shrugs*; and the first time I saw the word I randomly clicked on it to see if my Kindle would give me a definition (I assumed it wouldn't). Definition appeared - "a domesticated South American camelid, widely used as a meat and pack animal by Andean cultures since the Pre-Columbian era." Dang, no, that's a llama, I meant to give the lamia definition - "a mythical monster, with the body of a woman or with the head and breasts of a woman and the body of a snake, said to prey on human beings and suck the blood of children."

Rating: 4.25

May 26 2017

Joy says

I absolutely loved the change of shifter focus to one I hadn't ever thought/heard about - snakes. I thought the writer did an excellent job creating her concept in regards to snake shifters; and presenting the dual natures of how a snake (especially one who is merged with a human) could be and the expectations from those who know them/about them.

I enjoyed the possible powers and history of the race and really look forward to the mystery being revealed about the MC's past.

Aside from the premise, the characters had depth, the mystery was well done and the writing was also very good.

My dislikes - not enough of a chemistry build between the main character and her love interest (in my humble opinion, of course). The relationship did build and does provide a solid foundation, but I found the "passion" between the two seemed just put out there and not really developed.

I also found parts of the story a little tedious as the author tried to provide info. Since it's the first book of a series, not surprising but still something I have to mention.

One thing that I liked but ended up becoming a little annoyed at was the constant push of "snake education." I.E - Jacobson's organ. It was cool of the author to introduce that terminology (among other snake facts) into that story and work it in, but I found the repetitive use of it annoying because it tended to jar me out of the story.

Overall, I see a lot of promise with the characters and series and would recommend paranormal shifter fans give it a go.

Raquel (Rocki) says

You can find a longer review on my blog: [Raquel Gabrielle's Blog](#)

This is a really good start to a series I hope. Not sure if it is going to be one yet or not. I liked both Lindi and Kade but sometimes I thought Lindi could have been a little more cut throat. I understand more than anyone about keeping things under wraps and being in control but sometimes you must release the inner beast to release some of the pent up emotions. I think she was coming to that conclusion by the end of the book. I didn't really see the end coming as I expected I definitely hope there are more books to come and can't wait to learn more about Lamia's.

Mon Maryum says

My first ARC and I JUST noticed the 'arc' written in the file name of this ebook even though I got this book in November :(I am sorry! Review below:

Title: Under Her Skin (Shifter Shield, #1)
Author: Margo Bond Collins
Length: Approx. 59,000 words
Genre: Urban Fantasy

The author is really creative and can tie different situations together in cool ways. The concept of primitive enemies- the mongoose and snake- falling for each other was cool. But I felt like the book needed more 'showing' than telling, I couldn't relate much to the character either. I want to read something by this author that doesn't have too many scenes in it, something much more simple, which might help in slowing things down and 'showing' more.

Hollie says

This one started out with a strong and creative feel to it, but it seemed to fade pretty fast into the generic category. I will still give this author another shot, but this won't be a series I can continue.

Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says

**** Read as part of the Hearts Of Darkness Box Set ****

Under Her Skin is book one in *The Shifter Shield* series by Margo Bond Collins. It has a very interesting set up, with several surprises along the way, and a verity of unique shifters.

First I have to say - weresnake, how awesome is that? We don't see many shifter stores featuring reptiles.

Lindi was a wonderful character. She's beautiful and strong. I really liked the mystery surrounding her. She doesn't realize there are other shifters out there, who her birth parents are, or anything about her kind. Then we have the self-awareness that she has in herself and balancing both the human and snake side. She tries to keep her natures in check, being a good human who cares versus the snake side which can be cold and ruthless. All of this added to my intrigue and helped pull me into Lindi's character.

Dr. Kade Nevada a mongoose shifter. A mongoose and a snake, ya they are mortal enemies, but here he turns Lindi's world up side down. These two have a crazy strong attraction between them. The chemistry was of the charts with these two and it was wonderful to see it come alive on the pages.

It's a suspenseful fast-paced storyline involving murders, kidnapping, and shifter politics. I liked that the author put thought and paid attention to details about her snake shifters. It made it more believable. I enjoyed the mystery's we get and the romance. I will say at the end that I felt a few storylines were not completed and left open. I do hope they will continue into book two and get answered.

***Under Her Skin** was an intense and marvelous first installment. There is a lot to savor and enjoy. I was impressed and sucked into the world and writing. Can't wait to read book 2, A Generation of Vipers.*

Rated: 4.5 Stars

Mara says

It has potential. It doesn't deliver fully, but I'll try an other book by the same author.

Pam Nelson says

4 Under her Skin Stars

Well now, I have a new author to follow. I won this ARC, and being as I like shifter books I dove right in.

I can't say I have ever read a shifter book about a snake or a mongoose, so that was pretty exciting. Different yet interesting enough I needed to know more.

Lindy is a pretty remarkable young woman who has had to deal with being different but also both sides of herself. She was incredibly lucky to have been taken in by people who thought of her as their very own and treated her as such.

Never mind the field of work she went in to, it shows how much nurture can be a part of ones DNA as much as nature. Or at least that's how I thought of it.

Kade, he was mystery to me for a lot of the book. I didn't really know what to think of him or what his intentions were. I think that's what the author was going for and if so nailed it. He grew on me, but I still am unsure of all his intentions.

I think he had a deep attraction to Lindy along with a healthy dose of WTF! If this was real life I would have love to have seen the expression on his face when he sensed what she was.

I would call this a suspense for sure. Who did it? Why? And will they be caught.

I wonder if there is a going to be more? A series? Same characters? Different character?... I say YES please to all of those..

You don't have to like my review but its 100% my opinion, and I am allowed to have it.

Lisa books says

Snake

She's a child advocote and a snake shifter raised by a human family. This is a great first book and excited to

[read more](#)

Cindy says

Cool Shifters

Very cool shifter story. Usually a lamia is bad news but Lindi is special. She was raised by humans who knew what she was and loved her anyways? Now she is a counselor to traumatized children. Probably the most empathetic job ever, but being a cold blooded snake doesn't keep her from doing a wonderful job with the kids. I have only one issue and it's about how no one knew she was a shifter her whole life. At least not until she meets Kade anyways. It's a mystery that was never flushed out.

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

Under Her Skin is by Margo Bond Collins. This book was generously provided to me in exchange for an honest review by the author.

So I want to admit upfront that I am insanely squeamish regarding snakes. This might seem funny for a woman that is getting ready to move to a new home very soon deep in the woods. But because of that fear, I was a little worried about reading this book. I'm so glad I didn't give in to my fear though. I love Margo's writing and even though the heroine was a snake shifter, it didn't come across as creepy at all. It was just a part of who she was, beautiful and strong.

Lindi Parker was found when she was just a toddler by her adoptive parents. They raised her to learn how to control her reptilian side and to embrace her human side. She knew nothing of the shifter world, thought maybe she was the only one. Lindi is a social worker, trained to help children in need of her services. They are children who have been hurt, neglected, abused. She has dealt with some of the worst possible examples of humanity, the adults that hurt these children. But still, she keeps her serpent side under control. Then came the day she met Dr. Kade Nevala.

Kade is a mongoose shifter. You probably already know that a mongoose is a snake's worst enemy. But there is a crazy, strong attraction between Kade and Lindi. Could a mongoose and a snake ever be more than mortal enemies.

At the same time, shifter children have been disappearing. Who is taking them and why? Who could want to hurt these children? As Lindi calls on her training to help to solve the mystery, the connection between she and Kade gets stronger. All shifters are a part of a council equipped with enforcers that make sure all laws are adhered to. And every last one of them absolutely hate snake shifters. Will they ever accept her as part of their community?

This book surprised me on so many levels. The spark between Kade and Lindi kept my romantic needs satisfied. But there was a suspenseful aspect to it as well as they worked to find out who is hurting these beautiful children. So, this was my first official snake shifter book and it was a huge success. Margo, you rock!

Darcy says

I hated that the main story centered around kids being hurt, hated the opening scene where a girl fought back, then later learning about how many of the kids were murdered did me in. It didn't help that I don't like snakes and our heroine is a snake shifter. Too many things hit my buttons making this book not for me.

Shari Kay says

2.25 ★

Well this was...different.

Lindi is a snake shifter. She knows nothing about her real parents, or if she is the only shapeshifter in existence or not. She's spent her whole life hiding the fact that she is different and learning to control her 'serpent' side by loving adoptive parents. A battle of nurture over nature ensues, which Lindi mostly wins.

She's a councilor who works with abused children and when one of those children turns out to be another shifter...Lindi's world changes. There are shifters *everywhere*, unfortunately, they thought her particular breed was extinct and most of them want to keep it that way. Among everything else that's going on...shifter children are being killed.

So issues: How does no one recognize her as shifter when she has lived there 25 years? She's counseled other shifters in the past and none of them knew it, but now one sniff and they can tell. Nothing comes from letting us know Kade (H) knew Lindi worked at the agency before they meet at the hospital. Does that mean he knew what she was beforehand? This is brought up in the story but never answered. Why does Kade kiss her that first time? They are natural enemies (he's a mongoose). Is there some weird mate thing going on? It is wondered about but also never answered. So many unanswered questions and plot holes abound. How does the kid get a phone to call Lindi? And why call her? Continuity issues throughout.

The romance is just weird/practically nonexistent. No connection is developed between the two. Is it a romance or just a shifter thing? It's not built on. Kade is just inexplicably jealous. Lindi is drawn to him because he smells good and is hot (as in warm/heat). That's it. They have sex even though Lindi says she doesn't sleep with guys she barely knows so something is different. Lindi is b*tchy in the guise of strength. Kade tries to protect her from the shifter Council that wants her dead. She strings another guy along, even feels territorial and a zip. Then we have another 'twist' thrown in at the end that I was just thinking....okaaaaay...I thought the kids were the main point so it kinda felt thrown in so more stories can be added later.

The "surprise" bad guy is not a surprise though what he *is* seems far fetched not to have been noticed and OTT with evilness. Another nurture vs. nature. More plot holes. A very questionable execution/torture scene of the enemy. Lindi's involvement did not sit well with me, no matter how much the bad guy may have deserved it. Too brutal for my tastes.

There is nothing more between H/h until a emotionless kiss at the end. Not even a HFN IMO. I'm not even sure if he's even her boyfriend. This is a series, so maybe it's an ongoing thing, but the pacing was too far off to draw me in to their relationship.

The ideas here are imaginative. I don't think I've ever read a story with a snake shifter...parts belonging to that storyline were unique and interesting, but as a whole was not enough for me to pick up the next one in the series.

Rachel- Goodbye Borders says

Lindi is a weresnake. She believes she is the only one. While on call one night, she is introduced to a whole new world and realizes there are multiple other shifters. She also realizes the other shifters hate her and would like to see her dead.

I enjoyed this story so much. I liked Lindi and her "origin" story. I loved her parents! I didn't like Kade at first, I felt he overstepped. I liked what he was. I liked this world.

What was disappointing to me were the editing and continuity errors. This would have been a 4 star read, but these errors detracted from the story for me. The biggest one was the murdered girls. They are named (Candice, Jenna, Tasha, Laura, and Charlotte- that's 5). Then a paragraph or so later, "...discovered that all 3 girls...." and "...all 3 were patients...." Then a few pages later, "...I jotted down the 4 victims..." Also, one girl's last name changes on the same page- Emma Camelli changes to Emma Pack. Then Lindi didn't have shoes- and then did. "At some point, Scott had taken off my shoes, leaving only stockings." "...trying to remain quiet as my shoes scuffed along..." I found this frustrating.

Vika aka ? of GIF & Grumpy Smut-ateer *P/T Freebie Fairy says

This was a completely serendipitous read for me... something that happens to me often when we are talking about paranormal romance genre. A good blurb... and even better cover always gets my attention... and this love story is no different. As well as trying a new author this was a completely unique story for me to dive into. Yes, yes I have read plenty of shifter series and standalone but they always somehow revolve around wolves. This one was very different as the story was about a snake and mongoose. In the wild, they are natural enemies and it is set as such in our supernatural shifter world. As the were-animals in this book were very different species from what I'm used to reading it was a very entertaining & novel read in which I learned new lore and interactions between different species of shifters. The author has impressed me highly in that regard as a lot of research was done to make the story more believable.

We are introduced to Lindi Parker who as a toddler were-snake was abandoned and saved by her foster human parents. Human parents who have done their best to show Lindi how to be a warm and kind version of her were-self. Something she took to heart by becoming social worker/counselor for children in crisis. While on a case she stumbled upon a shifter child that in that moment opens up a whole new world of other shifters' existence. Unfortunately, she discovers fast that some shifters are not too happy to have her around because of her snake nature... okay ye snakes get a MONSTER bad rap in this book.

Fortunately, the first person she encounters is the one who might hold the answers to who she is and where she belongs. That person being the ever-sexy Dr. Mongoose. Mongoose... snake... you get the ominous vibe yet? Well, you shouldn't because in a favorite twist opposites attract.

*In this form, the heat that poured from his burned against my skin even more intensely, and I found myself wanting to coil around him, soak up some of that warmth for myself.
You can't snuggle up to a man who just offered to kill you, Lindi.*

The sizzling chemistry grows exponentially as Lindi and the good Doctor, Kade Nevala, have to work together on a case to solve the mystery of who is murdering shifter children.

I still couldn't break eye contact; his gaze was hypnotic. He leaned in and kissed me.

The read was fast paced with some interesting plot twists. However, I felt like some things were left off as a loose end (for me). Such as I needed more on Lindi's background, her fascination with one particular snake of her adoptive father's, and certain fate of *mumble, mumble* at the end.

Overall I had a fabulous time reading this PNR and I will make sure to pick up more books by Margo Bond Collins... as should you!

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