



Protected Mate

J.H. Croix

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From Bestselling author, J.H. Croix, a steamy new paranormal shifter romance series! Dane Ashworth, a sexy, solitary mountain lion shifter, comes from one of the founding shifter families of Catamount, a town deep in the woods of Maine where mountain lion shifters have existed in secret for centuries. The community is in turmoil after the startling death of one of their shifters. In the midst of upheaval in the shifter world, Dane encounters the unassuming, curvy and deliciously sexy Chloe Silver who injures herself hiking along the Appalachian Trail.

Chloe set out to hike the famed trail in the aftermath of heartbreak. She's lived a well-planned life, only to learn that the best laid plans could blow up in her face. She's looking for a fresh start, but trust doesn't come easily for her. The mere idea of shifters has never crossed her mind, but Dane calls to her in a way that no man ever has. She finds herself tossed and turned by the depth of her attraction to him. The mountain lion in Dane knows Chloe is meant for him, but he has to find a way to earn her trust and make her believe in him and in what lies between them. Passion burns like wildfire between them while events in Catamount put them both in danger. In a love story filled with passion, steamy romance, adventure, betrayal and secrets, Chloe will have to decide if she can accept Dane for who he is, and if she's willing to believe in the power of love.

*All books in this series end with HEA!

Protected Mate Details

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From Reader Review Protected Mate for online ebook

Lori says

Meh

Protected Mate was an okay read with a decent story line. Unfortunately the lack of a solid character voice kept me from fully committing y attention to this story.

Marsha Spohn says

Reviewed at Shifter Haven

Protected Mate starts off the Catamont Lion Shifters series with a powerful story and some interesting world building. A tagged mountain lion, thought extinct on the East Coast has been hit and killed by a car, which is bringing national attention to the fact that they may not be extinct at all. The trouble begins when Dane realizes that the pictures of the dead mountain lion are in fact his sister's mate, Callen. How in the world did he get tagged? And is his death as natural as a car accident?

Shana has gone missing after the news of her mate's death. Dane is searching the areas around the outskirts of town where she has known favorite places. He believes she's simply wanting time to take in Callen's death, but still he wants to know that she's safe. During his search he steps into the cover of trees as he hears human hikers approach, as they pass he finds his cat is strongly drawn to one young woman... but his sister's needs are more important right now. Later in the day as he approaches a cave they often use for shelter he sees the woman limping toward the opening and makes a decision to shift, gather clothes from a hidden pack and investigate. He probably should have known he was about to meet his mate.

Chloe has had several months hiking the Appalachian Trail without incident – today, so close to the end of the Trail she falls and sprains her ankle along with several deep, painful cuts down her leg. The cave is a welcome sight as she curls up and falls asleep. She should have been frightened when she was awakened by a stranger's touch – but somehow she knew this man with the catlike eyes. Turns out Dane is a doctor who tends to her injuries and offers to help her back to town in the morning... it's not safe to try to find their way in the darkness with her sprained ankle.

Dane has several things happening in his life at once now – the mystery of Callen's death, his sister's disappearance and now his mate. One at a time would be enough to deal with but of them all, Chloe's health and safety comes first. And he will do whatever he can to convince her to stay, since he's seen the interest spark in her eyes he's hoping she'll be open to loving him... and accepting his cat.

Protected Mate is such an intriguing story. Often the first story of a series will make or break my interest in continuing the series, so it has to draw me in enough to want more of the whole story. I have no problem in wanting to know just how bad it's going to get in this small town as we continue with the series. The secondary characters are lively, realistic and completely believable. Their introduction wasn't an overpowering dump of an entire town at once but more of a slow build of meeting the people in a town we recently moved to. I know that they are important for their own stories to come, and expect to meet more of the town as we move on.

Chloe and Dane have that just right sexual tension between them, and the feeling that there is more if they will take the risk. They definitely have their sexy moments but also loving ones and getting to know you times as well. I believed the process of them growing closer, especially since Chloe is not a shifter so must be introduced to this particular world. The danger that reveals more of this mystery helps to add action and the need for more information to the series.

Overall, I enjoyed Protected Mates very much and I've got the next story already downloaded ready to read. *grin* If you love Shifter Romance then this is a story that should be on your reading list. It's not brand new, having started last year but publication date means nothing to a great story and this one is just that.

Erika says

Nothing really wrong with this. I am just feeling very particular lately. (Third DNF in three days). I believe most readers who like shifter novellas will enjoy it. :)

Jenny Brightman Harris says

I received this book as an ARC for an honest review.

In this book we meet Dane and Chloe. After one of the shifters from Catamount is killed while still in lion form. As Dane and Jake take it upon themselves to find out what happened. One of the reasons they want to know what has happened is because Dane's sister Shana was mated to Cullen (the killed man), with the way they protect their own especially family Dane is determined to know why this happened for his sister's sake. The other reason is they want to ensure that their way of life is being protected. There is more than just these three that are shifters in this town and Dane and Jake want to ensure that they will be around for years to come. After hearing the news of Cullen's death he knows he needs to get to his sister but when he goes looking for her what he finds makes both the man and the lion want to stand up and roar.

Chloe has been hurt in the past and to help heal herself she has taken up hiking. One of the locations that she is hiking just happens to be the Appalachian Trail. While taking this hike though she slips and scrapes her leg pretty bad as well as twists her ankle. So she does the smart thing and beds down in a cave to help keep the elements from her and hopefully heal her body. Little did she know that Dane would happen upon her and with his lion wanting to claw through the man to get to her she gets the help she needs. Oh ya did I mention Dane is also the town doctor. Chloe's heart and mind are a war with what to do with Dane. Her head says proceed with caution because they have been hurt in the past. However her heart and body are ready to lay out the welcome mat for this man.

In this book we find a love that is worth taking a risk for as well as finding what you are willing to fight for in life and going for it. This is an amazing story that will have you hooked from the first word to the very end. I would highly recommend this book to anyone and everyone.

Karen Yawn says

I received an advance reader copy of this book free from the author in exchange for my unbiased opinion.

Let's see, I usually start with the bad and end with the good but the only bad thing I can think of to say is I saw some spelling errors. I am laughing because it is an advanced copy and that is bound to happen. So that should tell you that I really have nothing bad to say.

I love the fact that unlike so many other books of this type that I have read, the female lead is strong and the male lead is not a control freak. Dane is a strong male lead but he doesn't try to keep Chloe from doing what she wants and what he knows she wants to do. I can't tell you how it frustrates me when I read books in which the male is an obsessive control freak, you are mine and you will do as I say because I am protecting you. What baloney! Seriously, that really does border on abuse. But I digress! Back to Dane and Chloe! I love the steamy scenes between the two of them. The way they make love to each other is so well written its almost like watching it on screen. The book has just enough mystery to keep you enthralled and I can't wait to read the next one so I can find out what happens with the trouble that Callen started. One of my favorite moments in the book is when Dane reveals himself to Chloe. Although she knows that what she is seeing is a freak of nature, she doesn't miss a beat and her feelings for Dane do not waiver.

This sets the stage for the next book but at the same time, it doesn't leave you hanging to the point where you are frustrated. It's just enough to make you want to get the next book. Kudos to J.H. Croix, you just got a new reader for life.

SandyL says

I enjoyed this first book in the Catamount Lion Shifters series! Chloe Silver left her structured world after discovering her fiance cheating, and has been hiking the Appalachian Trail for the last six months. She's almost to the end, when she badly sprains her ankle. Dane Ashworth finds her sleeping in a cave and rescues her. Little does she know, Dane is a mountain lion shifter. They both feel an immediate attraction and Dane feels like this is his mate. In the meantime, one of their pack members, Callen, has been killed by a car while in mountain lion form. No one know why, and Dane and friend Jake are working hard to figure out what Callen was up to. This mystery wasn't solved (although there is some excitement in the book pertaining to it), so I'm guessing this will be an ongoing theme in future books. Dane is hot and sexy, which is a plus!

Rhonda Ziglar says

Protected Mate by J.H. Croix, is a wonderful fast pace book. I absolutely love this book...I do not read very many paranormal shifter books, but this one held my attention from beginning to the end. It had everything I look for in a book, romance, suspense, mystery and wonderful characters. Dane is hot sexy shifter and Chloe is a beautiful sweet human, what more could you want in a story. This is a must read for all readers of romance or paranormal looking for a new series. I am looking forward to the next one in the series.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Maria11 says

Ok story. Left lots up in the air except for the couple. Dane and Chloe were an ok couple. We had instant attraction and love.

Not overly thrilled with the series, will try the next book. I take it back, I am not up for boredom I am checking out

Dulcinea says

Not bad, not good. It felt flat, lacked spark. All the words are there, but nothing pops. No character development. I don't know these people and I just don't care about them. They talk (think) about how much they care about one another, how wonderful the other person is, yet nothing in the writing gives us examples of WHY that person is so wonderful and lovable, they just are because that's the way they feel.

At one point there are what should be a couple of very tense chapters, but there was no tension; it was like reading a text book.

Sort of a cliff-hanger, with many questions left unanswered. I'll just leave them hanging because I have no interest in continuing this series.

Darlene says

*****THIS IS ONE VERY DIFFERENT SHAPE SHIFTER PARANORMAL AND IT'S A HOT MUST READ*****

I received an ARC from the author J.H. CROIX-in exchange for an honest opinion. This is Mismousey's very honest opinion of her book PROTECTED MATE. Having never read any of Ms Croix book's before. I was unsure what to expect from her as a writer.

Ms. Croix is a master at paranormal - she brings it all in her writing abilities. The way in which she is able to describe a mountain lion shifting into a human and then vise versa is remarkable. I have never read a story line like this before. Her characters are so true life- the scenes are so well defined - that you picture them right before your eyes.

This story has so many emotions in it- love- hate- remorse-hurt-hunting-kidnapping-grieving-and consoling. Ms. Croix has done an excellent with describing the emotion of her characters and what and how they are feeling .

The story starts out with Dane walking into Roxanne's Country Store where there is a large crowd gathered listening to the news. It is being reported that a mountain lion has been found dead on the highway. Now Dane has recognized him as Callen -his sister's mate. Why he was tagged and tracked? And he had better go find Shanna before she finds this out by someone else or hears it on the news.

No one has seen her-he decides to go into the mountains to one of her favorite spots. Which is where he finds her- but not before finding an injured hiker. Her name is Chloe Silver. He helps her- ask to sit tight while he goes to find his sister. When he comes back he -his sister is with him- the 3 of them walk back to town.

Dane is a doctor and a shape shifter- but Chloe does not know that he is a shifter.

They feel a pull towards each other. During the course of time while Chloe's leg is healing- Dane and Chloe are getting to know each other. The lion in Dane wants her as his own. He has claimed her.

The only thing he hasn't he hasn't done yet is claim her.

Now while he is trying to find out why Callen was tagged and tracked - a lot of information turned up. And none of it is good. The shifters there in Deadwood are all at risk. He must find out what Callen was doing and with whom. In the mean time Dane and Chloe have gotten tight real tight.

Someone is out to get all the shifters and to make sure they have ane's attention they have kidnapped Chloe. Who is it?? Why and what do they want? Can Dane save Chloe? For all these answers and more YOU WILL NEED TO READ THE STORY!! I recommend this book for all readers-especially those that love paranormal shape shifters! Mismousey gives this a firm rating of 60 out of 5 stars. ADD THIS NOW TO YOUR GOODREADS READING LIST THEN SHIFT TO GET YOUR COPY TODAY!!!

Ms Croix -I look forward to the next book in this series. I have to know what happens next! You are an amazing writer and story teller.

Lynn Lim says

J. H. Croix has taken a step out of her usual genre of contemporary romance and has turned her page and added paranormal/fantasy to her writing genre. Her first attempt in this new genre is "Protected Mate", the first book in book in her new Catamount Lion Shifter series. Now, keep in mind that this is her first attempt at this genre, and you know the saying, a cat has nine lives, but.... Ms. Croix only needed the first life. SHE HAS A WINNER!!! Her writing in this genre is just as phenomenal as it is in contemporary romance. She just has a way of drawing a reader into her stories that you never want to put the book down. I know I did not!

I fell in love with Ms. Croix's writing during her writing of the Diamond Creek Alaska series, and have been reading her books ever since. When I was given the opportunity to read the first book of this series I jumped at the chance. I was given an ARC of the book for my honest review. Yes, buy this book you will definitely not be disappointed. By the way, this is a standalone book.

Thank you for reading my review. Ms. Croix, I cannot wait until December 2015 when the Chosen Mate and Fated Mate comes out, to read about more of the characters that you will write about.

Shyla says

Never thought of this plot before

The plot of the story is different from so many other shifter books that it was surprisingly more interesting to me!!! Of course there is the guardian, protecting, and soldier type of shifters but I have never thought to use them as runners.

That would be very impressive and interspersing to criminals interested in activities that require special skills. Just think of what they could use the shifters for?

Chloe and Dane were a surprise for me as I was expecting a little bit of frustration in the beginning. That was me though because the story turned out even better for not having more drama in it!!!

Come read and enjoy a different outlook on a new shifter series!!!

Pamela Mitchell says

This is a great beginning to a new paranormal shifter romance series. The captivating plot included mystery, danger, action, adventure, steamy romance and kept me on the edge of my seat. Ms. Croix introduces the tight-knit community of Catamount, Maine located in the northern Appalachian Mountains. I really enjoyed

the interaction and sizzling chemistry between protective alpha shifter Dane and strong, beautiful independent Chloe. I loved this fast-paced read and can hardly wait for book two in the Catamount Lion Shifter series.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Jane says

Dr. Dane Ashworth is a mountain lion shifter living a quiet life in Catamount, Maine in a community where shifters are kept safe. His brother-in-law is killed in an auto accident while in cat form with a tracking devise attached to him in Connecticut. This is a potential problem for the tow.

He meets Chloe Silver in a cave when she is injured hiking and seeks shelter for the night and he knows she is the one for him. She becomes his *Protected Mate* in this sweet and hot love story.

Coco.V says

FREE on Amazon today (10/16/2017)!
