



River's Recruit

Charlotte Abel

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Jonathan McKnight lost everything in Afghanistan. His left hand, his identical twin and his self-respect. He searches for redemption during a solo backpacking trip into the remote Sawatch Mountains of Colorado and discovers a secret tribe of shifters.

River, the beautiful young shifter that rescues Jonathan from certain death, wants to recruit him. He is equally determined to rescue her from her cult-like society — even if he has to kidnap her.

River's Recruit Details

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Author : Charlotte Abel

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From Reader Review River's Recruit for online ebook

Lily at Bookluvr's Haven says

Review originally featured on Bookluvr's Haven

A picture/gif can convey a thousand words for the reviewer who is seriously stumped on what to write, because he/she just loved a novel so much they honestly don't know where to start.

I loved this story. There are so many elements to it that I enjoyed, that I don't even know where to begin. But I must have read this in record time considering how much I had going on. I was literally attached to my Kindle the whole time, sneaking in a page whenever I could.

This story features two people, Jonathan and River, who couldn't be from two more different worlds. River grew up in a secret community hidden deep in the wilderness; a community of shapeshifters hidden from the 'real world'.

Jonathan, a soldier that has lost more than he thinks he can bear in Afghanistan, takes a backpacking trip to help sort himself out, and accidentally stumbles into a world he had absolutely no idea existed.

And so begins this amazing love story between two people that you would think were as different as night and day, but all is not what it seems....

I loved the slow build of the story between Jonathan and River. It was believable, sweet and built so much anticipation, I was anxious for them to express their feelings once and for all!

River is strong spirited and strong willed. Two traits I enjoy in female characters. But she also is kind hearted and loyal to the family that took her in when she was younger. Living in the harsh society that is her hidden, secretive community of shape shifters, Jonathan is strange but intriguing to her.

The writing style was amazing. I was pulled into this story and I couldn't shake this book off for a second if I tried, until it was finished. There were twists and turns, revelations and betrayals that left my heart racing and desperately wishing for the next installment. I can't really express to you how anxious I am for this second book to come out.

I received a eBook copy of this book for free to review from the author; this in no way influenced my review, all opinions are 100% honest and my own.

Emily says

[(merge fever that can only be cured by mating? Seriously?) (hide spoiler)]

Super Fan Girl says

I was expecting 'just another shifter story' and was pleasantly surprised at the rich characters and depth of story in this book. I've read Charlotte Abel's first series and really enjoyed it so I knew I'd like this but I really love it. I've read it twice and keep thinking about the characters. Definitely the sign of a great book. Highly recommended to all that enjoy paranormal romance.

Mello ♥ Illium ★Harry★ ?Myrnin? Torin Ichimaru says

I was given a copy of this book direct from the author in exchange for an objective and honest review. Thank you Charlotte for giving me the chance to read this series debut.

Synopsis:

Jonathan McKnight lost everything in Afghanistan. His left hand, his identical twin and his self-respect. He searches for redemption during a solo backpacking trip into the remote Sawatch Mountains of Colorado and discovers a secret tribe of shifters.

River, the beautiful young shifter that rescues Jonathan from certain death, wants to recruit him. He is equally determined to rescue her from her cult-like society — even if he has to kidnap her.

Primary Characters: River & Jonathon

Secondary Characters: Eli, Gabriel, Shula, Reuben and Paul

My Thoughts:

I enjoyed this book. I was actually really engrossed in it. The synopsis completely drew me and I loved reading about River and Jonathon. Who knew a hero with a missing hand could be hot? I loved watching Jonathon grow as a person. He goes from wannabe playboy to soldier to grieving brother to recruit to possible leader of a revolution. I bet Jonathon never thought his life would go this way. And River was a feisty lil' thing. I really liked her. I have to wonder why she isn't able to tell Jonathon more about what he needs to know, though. That was driving me a bit insane.

Still, I enjoyed how things were being revealed to the characters. Most of the twists, I did see coming. I knew what Shula had done and whom it was she had done it with long before Jonathon figured it out. I bet Eli still has no clue. I was surprised about that whole son of Ephraim thing. Things can get really shaken up, though. Why is Shula so hell bent on Eli getting in power? Does she have an actual reason? Eli could care less. I don't like him much, but he seems to continuously get a raw deal. I actually hope something works out for him at some point.

And does Reuben really have no clue what Shula did at the end there? He still doesn't know the truth about

Hannah. I hope he kicks his sister's ass. She's a meddling bitch.

My biggest problem with the book was that I had issues with trying to figure how much time was passing. There were a couple of times where it was stated clearly, but near the beginning, not so much. Also, (view spoiler) That was a bit jarring. There were a few other instances, but that one is the one that sticks in my head most. Other than that and the somewhat quick progression of River's and Jonathon's relationship (which I will put to their being fated mates-since that was the impression that I got), I didn't have any other big issues.

Overall, an enjoyable read.

My Rating: ★★½??

Katie Low says

River lives in a community on the wooded outskirts of Denver that no one knows exists. It's called New Eden. The community is actually a group of shifters, that once they become of age, they force a merge with their wolf bringing them together body and soul. River is betrothed to Eli, the grandson of the ruler Zebulon. River has absolutely no interest in Eli whatsoever, nor him with her. Their match is strictly political, giving Eli the edge he needs to be the next ruler and freeing the woman he loves. A wrench is thrown into the plan when River stumbles upon Jonathan, the wounded outsider that saves her from a mountain lion. Only, he's not as much of an outsider as they originally thought. He is descendent of Ephraim, Zebulon's brother and rightful ruler of New Eden. It is prophesized that the Son of Ephraim, and his mate, who mutual-merges with a white wolf, River, shall save New Eden in their hour of need. Little did they know that Shula, Eli's mother, would stop at nothing to make her son the next ruler.

I really enjoyed this book. I love the dynamic between Jonathan and River. The supporting characters are just as lovable, and a certain spoiled brat is still redeemable. It ended with a massive cliff-hanger that will have you panting for book two.

Karla(Book Addict) says

deleting reviews if you want to take a look at them you can do so on my blog, link on my profile

Lorna says

4.5/5 stars (RabidReads.com) A strange cult that lives in the mountains of Colorado, one that has nothing to do with the outside world. But is it really a cult? That's the premise of this more than fascinating story. Jonathan Mcknight goes on a camping trip alone and ends up meeting a beautiful woman named River, who takes him to her home due to blizzard conditions. Little does he know that now that he knows about her, he can no longer ever go home. The conditions are pretty primitive, the clothes worn by the residents resemble something out of history books, and the rituals used to keep outside germs from entering the community rigorous. In order to keep Jonathan from being executed on the spot, she tells her guardian, Reuben, that

Jonathan is her recruit. Jonathan humors her and agrees that he has given up on modern life, and that he will not leave. Of course he is plotting the whole time to escape-until he finds out that River will be executed if he leaves. The council in charge of the communities-one, the elite that live inside Sanctuary Mountain, and the other, topside dwellers, that barely make a living-are very quick to execute, whip, or cut off a hand or finger for even the smallest infraction. But there's an even bigger secret that everyone is keeping from Jonathan, the reason that they live apart from society, and it's a paranormal one. Werewolves.

This book. I literally read it non-stop and when I was done I immediately read the second one(River's Remorse) non-stop. For two days I immersed myself in River and Jonathan's world, and totally enjoyed the whole thing. Yes, it's a paranormal romance at times, but it's also a saga of sorts about a whole other secret world that exists apart from everyone else. I found the world building to be fascinating. Ms Abel has created a world that is ripe for rebellion and a prophecy that tells of an outsider that will change everything. There's a lot of unfairness in this world, some women are turned into whores, others into servants-all against their wills. Men are allowed several wives and concubines, and women have nothing to say about it. That's just a couple of examples, but the authors world building is rich with detail after detail about this world with nary an info dump in sight.

River and Jonathan are good characters. In the beginning when we meet Jonathan, I really didn't like him that much. But after going away to war, he comes home a changed man, and his character as a man had grown greatly, as well. River is an innocent, but very feisty, and has grown up in a man's world. A horrible world by anyone's standards. When she meets Jonathan her life changes in ways she would never had imagined. Lots of good peripheral characters keep the story moving, and there's an array of villains to be had here, as well. There's also a lot of good people that want change. Will Jonathan be the one to bring it? And why him anyway? Or is there someone else that can do the job?

There's plenty of action, violence, and intrigue in this book, but the heart of the story for me was River's and Jonathan's love story. The author knows how to write a good romantic story, and the romance itself was very sweet. Don't expect explicit sexual details in this installment, but there is enough sexual situations talked about, and almost sexual situations happening, to keep this from being YA. Not to mention the violence described.

I highly recommend this book to adult paranormal romance fans, ones that like a complex story.

Andrea ~The Book List Reviews says

River's Recruit (The Sanctuary Series) by Charlotte Abel

First I would like to say that I had the honor of receiving a copy of this book directly from Charlotte Abel herself, in exchange for an honest review of it. Thank you!

Rating

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Book Summary

Jonathan McKnight lost everything in Afghanistan. His left hand, his identical twin, his self-respect and his

naive belief that good always triumphs over evil. Burdened by grief and guilt, he searches for redemption on a solo backpacking trip into the remote Sawatch Mountains of Colorado and discovers a secret tribe of shifters.

River, the beautiful young shifter that rescues Jonathan has been promised to a man she despises. A man that does not desire her and only wants to use her to achieve his own political goals. Jonathan is more than a romantic rival. He's a threat to those goals.

The only way to save Jonathan's life is for River to take him as her recruit.

As Jonathan learns more about the horrors of River's cult-like society, he becomes even more determined to escape it, until he learns that River is responsible for everything he does and will be executed if he succeeds.

Escape is not an option—unless Jonathan can persuade River to leave with him. And if she refuses? Well, then, he'll just have to kidnap her.

My Thoughts

As Charlotte said on her GR page the release of this book coincides with the release of COD Black Ops II. While my husband is engulfed in his video game wars, I am sitting on the couch next to him reading *River's Recruit*.

Not only was I taken by River's story, but Jonathan's story grabbed me and dragged me in. Charlotte did a wonderful job of outlining her main characters. I think that Jonathan's story is going to be so relatable right now due to his Military background. I wasn't sure how Charlotte was going to be able to merge these two completely different characters into one story. I was pleasantly surprised by the way she brought them together. BRAVO!

I really enjoyed this book. I didn't want to put it down. Charlotte had me at HELLO. :) I can not wait to continue the journey with River, Jonathan, and their family and friends.

Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says

Quick review:

Cover: Nice

Rating: R

Thumbs Up: 4.5

Overall: What a great start to a new series

Characters: Well Done

Plot: Both have lost their way but together they find purpose

Page Turner: Yes

Series Cont.? Yes

Recommend: Yes

Book Boyfriend: Jonathan

SUMMARY (50 words or less)

The world building is stellar and had me drawn in. So unique the legend and the blending of culture and paranormal. An interesting read to say the least. There was action, there was heat, there was romance and there was betrayal. This book had it all. I really enjoyed it.

To see my full review and likeness of my book boyfriend, check out my blog post.

<http://mybookboyfriend.blogspot.com/2...>

Brooke (The Cover Contessa) says

I received a copy of this book from the author to read and give an honest review. This in no way influenced my review process. I am reviewing this book as part of a blog tour hosted by SupaGurlTours (<http://www.supagurlbooks.blogspot.com>).

Blurb from Goodreads:

Jonathan McKnight lost everything in Afghanistan. His left hand, his identical twin and his self-respect. He searches for redemption during a solo backpacking trip into the remote Sawatch Mountains of Colorado and discovers a secret tribe of shifters.

River, the beautiful young shifter that rescues Jonathan from certain death, wants to recruit him. He is equally determined to rescue her from her cult-like society — even if he has to kidnap her.

I absolutely love the cover of this book. It is totally how I pictured River in my mind. It does make me think a bit of fantasy but this book is not fantasy at all. I still love the cover!

River is an interesting character. A bit naive for sure. She's spunky and definitely confident. She is sweet and a little feisty. I love how strong she is. A great role model for young girls. But she is also a bit vulnerable and lets the reader peek at this throughout the book.

Johnathan is a broken man. He has had such tragedy in his life. He is in search of himself and what he needs to do to find that part of him that was lost when his twin brother died. He's a good man with a heart that needs to be healed.

Together their relationship is interesting given their different backgrounds. It was fun to watch them learn about each other.

The story line is very different from anything else I have ever read. There are many intense moments throughout the book that make it an interesting read. And the world building is very good. The characters are very real and it was easy to related to them.

I enjoyed Charlotte's writing. She creates a totally different shifter story.

This was a nice paranormal read.

4 out of 5 stars from me.

Kel (Faerie-bookworm) says

I was lucky enough to get this ARC from the talented author, Charlotte Abel, and it is a must read. I couldn't put it down and flowed so well that I didn't even realize it was over until there was nothing else to read.

The story starts off with a bang in the prologue and builds to the point of frustration when you get to the cliffhanger ending, leaving you longing for more. The main characters, River and Jonathan, come from two completely different worlds that collide during a blizzard. He is has been raised like anyone in the USA, while she has been raised in a strict, shifter world. Both exist in our world but one is a secret and one isn't. As Jonathan learns more about River's secrets he also starts to fall for her as she falls for him while teaching him the ways of her people.

That's all I'll say so I don't give anything away, other than there are always those that have different plans in mind. :D

Kate says

I love shifter stories and this one did not disappoint! It was different, had great pacing, and kept me hungry for more. Very unique!

The book starts out chronicling events in the lives of River and Jonathan before they meet, and I loved the way the tone was completely unique for each character's perspective. Once they met and their lives intertwined, I was pleasantly surprised how the story meshed these two people from such different worlds. These characters felt so real to me!

So, what did I love?

- It is full of mystery, adventure, and romance.
- Structure, world building, and character development are superb.
- Shifters are presented in a way I have not read before.
- The romance is sweet and full of sexual tension. Great for a YA audience.
- I really fell in love with the characters--their backstories, their evolution, their interactions, all of it.

Complaints?

- I had a tad bit of confusion with the timeline in the beginning of the book that made me go back (briefly) to confirm where in time I thought things were happening.
- The ending, while not as bad of a cliff hanger as it could have been, was still a cliff hanger. I normally detest that, but this book was so good, I'm still giving it 5 stars. I usually like to get to a natural, definite ending for the current drama, with the bigger picture drama still hanging in the balance for the series. (view spoiler)

All in all, I very much enjoyed this book and will definitely be continuing with this series!

I received a free copy of this book from the author for an honest review.

Hbeebti says

4.5 This was so good! The world that River lives in reminds me of the Amish kind of. There is no electricity or gadgets or running water like we have. There are springs and they live off the land. There is no outside medical care also, its forbidden. River lives in a very harsh world. Stealing means that you loose fingers. Disobey or breaking rules means whipping or death. But River isn't human. Not really. They are a community of shifters. There are rules and more rules. Ruling classes and politics...

When Jonathan meets River there is instant chemistry and there is a forbidden romance (he is human and an outsider). I have to say that Johnathan was so sweet and strong. There is a lot going on. River takes Jonathan home with her as her recruit in order to save his life and he has a lot to learn. Jonathan is convinced that River lives in cult and is willing to do anything to save her. Along the way though he makes friends with Gabriel and Paul who are brothers they just wonderful guys. Eli, I'm on the fence about. Eli was promised to River which was crazy since they hate each other.. But politic people that's all this is.. hidden agendas. For the most part I do not like him. I think he is a coward and a big baby. Even though he acts like he is alpha and tough I just don't really see it. Now don't get me started on Shula, Eli's mom. Ugh.. she has her moments where I think she did something good and then by the end I wanted to strangle her.

Now the ending, why oh why did you end it that way????????????????? What????????????????? I mean I was all into it and then BAM! THE FREAKING END!!! Seriously???? Oh come on I don't even see anything about the next book yet. Please say it will be soon.

Jen says

I had the honor of receiving an ARC of this book to Beta-read for Charlotte Abel; and what an honor it was! This is the third book that I have read from this author and her stories have the ability to make me so absorbed in the story, that I don't want to stop for air!! The world's that she create's are enchanting and her characters are so endearing and so very easy to relate to. They are so real, which makes it so that I can identify with them and I become fully invested into what happens to them in the story.

This particular story is about a place that nobody is aware that exists deep in the Sawatch Mountain. There is a community of shifters who live there and are quite primitive in their ways and behaviours. River is coming to an age where she will be expected to mate with one of her kind because her "merge fever" is fast approaching. She is not happy to discover who is being picked for her and she ventures off. She comes across a young man in trouble and ends up saving his life. Jonathan has escaped his life of tragedy and sorrow to go on an expedition. Not only has he lost his hand in the war but also his twin brother. Things at home just haven't been the same since his brother was killed and Jonathan has so many feelings he just can't seem to cope with. When he lands himself in hot water and has this intriguing girl save him, he immediately feels some spark of life return to him. River takes Jonathan on as her "recruit" as this is the only acceptable way to keep him around without losing him. This begins a journey of introducing a young man who is used to the current way of the world learning how to cope with this new life which is so primitive and beyond anything he has ever experienced before.

Phew! I could go on and on; but I certainly do not want to ruin this wonderful adventure for anyone who wishes to read it. I will say that this book is exactly that..An exciting, passionate adventure. It is full of wonderful characters of all ages including the endearing little brother of River; Paul! He is such a sweetheart, and the antics from him are laugh out loud enteraining fun! He is so cute and had me in stitches several times! I love books that bring out my emotions and believe me this one brings them all out in full force! There is one scene where I felt Jonathan's desperation right down into my bones and was crying right along with him. This story reached out and grabbed me, and didn't let me go until the very end. Of course I didn't want it to end, and the ending came and I was ready to take the author hostage and demand her to start

writing the next book right away! I am dying to know what is going to happen.

I highly recommend this book, it has a little bit of everything in it. Action, laughter, tears, loyalty, betrayal, and most of all a beautiful romance full of extreme sexual tension. If you are looking for a book that will keep you highly entertained deep into the night, this is the book for you. I have fallen in love with Jonathan, River, Gabriel, and Paul and can hardly wait until I can fully emerge myself into this treasure of a book again! Charlotte Abel has found herself on the top ten of my favorite authors list and her books are on my keeper shelf so that I can go back to her wonderful worlds that she creates as much as I want to! It doesn't get better than that!

Samantha says

Review to come:)
