



Shapeshifted

Cassie Alexander

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Nurse Edie Spence is once again called upon to save a life...and this time, it's personal. Can her new community of zombies, vampires, and shapeshifters come to her rescue when she needs them most?

When Edie was fired from her paranormal nursing job at County Hospital, her whole world came crashing down. Now she's once again shaken to her core. Her mother is deathly ill and there's only one thing that will save her: vampire blood. But with the paranormal community shunning Edie, where can she obtain it...without losing her own life in the process?

SHAPESHIFTED

Edie hopes to procure it at her new job at the clinic across town, where the forces of evil loom large. Vampire gang wars are rampant. Old underground enemies are rising to the surface. And Edie's zombie ex-boyfriend has arrived at the scene—but is he the same man he used to be? And what should she make of the enigmatic doctor with whom she shares an unexpected connection? She'll have to figure it out soon, because all hell is about to break loose—literally—and time is running out...

Shapeshifted Details

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Author : Cassie Alexander

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From Reader Review Shapeshifted for online ebook

Angela Carr (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

Review also posted at

Ms. Alexander had given us a bitter sweet ending making Shapeshifted by far the best of this series.” ~Under the Covers Book Blog

Shapeshifted takes off about 6months after Nightshifted had ended. Edie now has tried to live a “normal” life, shunned from any paranormal connections. With her memories in tact, she is finding it hard not to think about her friends. Needless to say, Edie has been trying her best to live despite her sadness. Unfortunately, life will throw Edie a curb ball and her mom’s health will have her seek for vampire blood.

Edie Spence just can’t get a break. She has one broken heart after the next, from her brother, her zombie ex-boyfriend, shunned from the supernatural world and now her mom. The first half of the book just had me in tears. Seeing Edie go through the motions of finding out her mom is sick and wanting to fix the problem. It is so like her to take care of everyone to the point of risking her life...She is a nurse through and through.

Despite her heartaches, I am happy with the turn of events in this book. First, it seem like Edie may have found a job she enjoys. It allows her to work with both humans and paranormals. Not that she wasn’t passionate about her previous jobs but this time she has grown to know what exactly what she wants. Her job is not without problems as I said, trouble follows her everywhere. This job will include involvement with the local gangs, which eventually will lead her back to the world of paranormals. Oh and wait until you meet the new Doctor she works with.

Next, Edie’s ex-boyfriend comes back in the picture which I’m not happy about. I am proud of our Edie as she did not jump at the chance to be with him. She will take the time to think on her relationship or lack of and decide confidently. Funny thing is, sometimes, love can be right under your nose and you would miss it if you’re not looking. She will make a decision and will have romance back in her life. The man she picks has always been there for her as a friend, lover, and protector. I think right from the start, he already loved her. And with that said, I would like to thank Ms Alexander for leading Edie to the right path to get some happy-ever-after. She truly deserves someone who can love her wholeheartedly. Plus, this guys are a lot sexier than the dead guy(pun).

A secondary character I wanted to mention is Edie’s young friend Olympio. He is the grandson of a local healer who seemed to be worth nothing more than just a thug. As with everything in this book, nothing is as it seems and Olympio turned out to be something a lot more than just street kid. The ending threw me off. I did not expect certain scenes to play out to the point of rereading the page over just to make sure that it actually happened. I can tell you this...a character will leave Edie Spence Series for good *covering mouth*, and that is all I’m saying. Yup, Ms. Alexander had given us a bitter sweet ending making Shapeshifted by far the best of this series.

*Review provided by publisher in exchange for an honest review

Trina says

Nice....

Niquie says

New location, new characters, loose ends tied up, and no Jake. I miss Jake.

Suzanne says

This wasn't the best

Kristie Elston says

Originally reviewed at Dark Faerie Tales: <http://darkfaerietales.com/review-sha...>

Quick & Dirty: Wonderfully written and well-rounded novel set in a world where being supernatural isn't all it's cracked up to be.

The Review:

The third installment of the Edie Spence urban fantasy series begins a little on the slow side but in the end was a wonderful and well-rounded book. This review will contain spoilers from the previous novels. I really recommend reading the first two novels in this series in order to get an idea of the world and who all the secondary characters are. You may be lost as to who's who and how they have affected Edie's life.

Seven months have passed since Edie was shunned from the supernatural world and her life has turned out more boring and depressing because of it. She now works at a sleep clinic (still on third shift), has moved apartments, lost "depression" weight and has even begun seeing a psychiatrist. Then Edie gets the news that will completely change her life. Her mother has cancer. Edie knows one way to cure it – by finding vampire blood – but she can't do that with her shunning. Edie approaches the Shadows hoping they would help her but they only give her a cryptic message that if she finds Santa Muerte then they will speak with her.

Edie abruptly quits her job at the sleep clinic. She can't take the boring silence anymore, not when all she can think about is her mother's cancer. Edie is called up about a job offer but it is in the middle of the poor, violence riddled Spanish speaking part of town. Edie can't speak Spanish so she almost gives in to the loss of a potential job when she Google's the clinic and sees a mural of Santa Muerte painted on the wall outside. Edie presses her luck and gets an in person interview. She manages to get turned down for the job when a gunshot victim comes into the clinic and she helps the doctor, Hector, work on the patient. Hector reluctantly agrees to hire Edie.

Edie thinks the clinic will help her find Santa Muerte and begins her search. She meets a hilarious teenager in Olympio who gives her a tour of the area. Olympio has some magic to him and he can see that Edie has a curse over herself that his grandfather can help heal. At the same time, Edie finds herself in the middle of two gang wars that want the clinic and Hector on their sides.

Shapeshifted finds Edie getting thrust back into the supernatural world even though she's shunned. The

Hound and Edie's ex-boyfriend Ti, a zombie, find her at her new apartment before she is once again mixed with vampire politics and crazy shapeshifter personalities.

I really enjoyed the change of scenery in this novel and the fact the Edie seemed to have grown quite the backbone and pursued a lot of the leads on her own, even though she needed a vampire to help save her mother, she often found herself in tight spots and had to get herself out of the situations. She couldn't rely on the supernatural to come to her rescue. Edie was also quite funny and a little quirky in this novel. I enjoyed her reactions in quite a few of the scenes.

I was really excited by the ending. The last two novels didn't quite work out so well for Edie in the end so it was nice to have a better, more happy Edie at the end of this one. Although not all the issues were resolved in the end, they are noted and I can't wait to see what is next for Edie.

Overall, I found this novel really improved on a fun, yet at times a kind of depressing storyline. I still really enjoy the uniqueness of the supernatural world. This is a world where being a supernatural isn't all fun and games. They have their own issues and they certainly are not pretty. We learned in the last novel that werewolves lose time off their lives every time they change into a wolf, so the life span for a werewolf is not long. This novel uncovers the sad history of Shapeshifters hence the Shapeshifted title. If you want an urban fantasy series that is a little different, I would recommend this series.

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: Wonderfully written and well-rounded novel set in a world where being supernatural isn't all it's cracked up to be.

Opening Sentence: I'd lost fifteen pounds in six months.

The Review:

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Notable Scene:

"Hey, lady."

The kid from yesterday walked up the block. "Hey," I said back.

"You still need a limpieza. I can tell."

"Yeah, that's still not gonna happen. I gotta get to work. First day on the job." I pointed with my thumb to the clinic behind me. He wagged his head in exaggerated disapproval at my playing for the other team. "I'm Edie. Who're you?"

"I'm Olympio."

"What do you do all day, Olympio?" It was summer now, otherwise I'd have asked him why he wasn't off at school.

He grinned, showing uneven teeth. "Try to stop people from going in there. You all can't do half the things my grandfather can."

"How so?"

"You all take months to figure out what's wrong with someone, and then pills for the rest of their lives. My grandfather, he can heal you in just one day."

As a nurse, I'd heard all sorts of holistic health bullshit. I'd seen patients who'd been burned by cupping, who had made themselves ill by eating mislabeled "remedy" pills contaminated with lead. "Yeah?" I said, my eyebrows rising.

"Yeah. You got something wrong with you, lady. I can tell. I don't know what it is, but my grandfather is a great curandero, he'd know."

"Well." I was quiet for a moment, trying to hear the sound again. There was a storm drain across the street—it could be wind going by its entrance. "Well—" I regrouped. "I disagree. No, wait. Actually, I do agree—there's something wrong with me." I was sure I looked worried about my mom. I'd seen it in the mirror this morning, in the corners of my eyes. "But it's not the kind of thing that other people can fix."

FTC Advisory: St. Martin's Press/Macmillan provided me with a copy of Shapeshifted. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Jen says

I again found myself reading a book in this series with a bad case of déjà vu. (See my review for book one.) But this book wasn't published until AFTER my move to Tucson. For the first book, I assumed I read it before joining Goodreads and while still living in Seattle. This wasn't possible for this third book.

So I checked my Pima County Public Library record and it helpfully includes all of the books I've ever borrowed and returned. I found that I'd checked out the first three books in June 2014. I guess I must have read them then, too, though I didn't have the strong moments of déjà vu while reading book two. Still, though... I'm relieved to learn that I wasn't confusing this series with other books. :-)

I'm also very pleased to report that I didn't look askance at anything Edie did in this third outing. This makes this third book the most enjoyable yet for me. :-)

In Shapeshifted, we learned that Edie's shunning did mean she lost her job at County at the end of Book two. But she is not without work for long. By the time summer rolls around, she found a day job at a clinic in a poor part of town. :-)

Ti returns, but (view spoiler) I was rather happy about this, as it showed heretofore-unseen maturity on Edie's part.

Instead, in the middle or thereabouts, Dr. Hector Tovar (view spoiler) And then in the end, after (view spoiler) :-)

I'm glad there's a fourth book in this series. (I've already placed a hold on it at my library.) This one feels like a good place to end the series, but at the same time, we were given a hint of things that could possibly come. So I'm glad the series continues and look forward to reading book four. :-)

First read, but not reviewed, in June-ish 2014.

Read for second time, and reviewed, February 18-19, 2016.

Carmel (Rabid Reads) says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

You know what they say; the third time is the charm and that definitely holds true with *Shapeshifted*, book three in Cassie Alexander's *Edie Spence* series. In the previous two installments Edie was a noob in the paranormal world, struggling to make sense out of vampires and werewolves, but in this novel she finds herself shunned, back among humans and longing for a taste of the crazy she was forced to leave behind.

The first half of this novel had me scratching my head wondering when the vamps were going to show up; the story read like your everyday hospital drama which wasn't at all what I expected. However, once I experienced my little light bulb moment at about the midway point, I couldn't help but marvel at Alexander's clever deception. The paranormal had been right in front of my face the whole time and I didn't even see it!

Needless to say, going from working at Y4 to a sleep clinic is like night and day for Edie. Well, not really because she worked the night shift at both jobs but you get my meaning. Anyway, to say that she was bored watching others sleep would be a gross understatement so what does she do? Goes out and applies at a clinic in gang territory. Werewolves vs. hoodlums; same difference, right? I couldn't help but shake my head at her because this girl has a serious death wish. Although, I did admire her reasons and determination to save her dying mother.

When Ti shows up I did cringe a little, I'm not going to lie. The prospect of Edie reuniting with her ex zombie boyfriend worried me. The ick factor alone was enough to dampen my enjoyment of *Nightshifted* and I had no desire for a repeat performance in this installment. I did do a little happy dance when it was looking like he might actually be the bad guy in this book but of course, nothing is ever that straight forward in Urban Fantasy.

I missed the characters from the previous installments in this series; very few of them make appearances in this book and the ones that do play only minimal roles. The ending did lead me to believe that Edie may find herself reunited with her friends at Y4 in *Deadshifted* but I guess only time will tell on that one! *Shapeshifted* has all of the same elements that I enjoyed so much in the first two books; a level-headed yet fun heroine, intense medical drama and unique paranormal mythology. But it was Cassie Alexander's superior storytelling that transformed this installment into a five star read.

Jessica ❀ ➡ Silverbow ➡ ❀ Rabid Reads-no-more says

MEH.

I still love Edie and I'm happy that it *seems* like there may be some stability in her personal life, but I'm still not seeing an endgame.

I need an endgame.

And I'm not a big fan of the get-out-of-supe-free card either. I get that this is *my* issue, and not everyone shares it, but I feel like there need to be boundaries, clear-cut rules, in Fantasy/UF books. If someone can

wave a hand and turn a vampire back into a human, what's the point? It's too easy. And why would you want to go back to being a human anyway? That whole scenario just annoys me. For the first time ever, I didn't see an X-Men movie when I found out that The Wolverine was all about not wanting to be the Wolverine. Human is fine when there's nothing but humans. But when there are lions, and tigers, and bears, who in their right mind would want to be human?

So anyway, maybe in book 4 Edie will stop fence-sitting and pick a side.

Here's hoping.

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review Courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy

With the huge cliffhanger at the end of MOONSHIFTED I was excited to see what was in store for Edie in SHAPESHIFTED and was not disappointed by all the supernatural craziness I've come to expect in the Edie Spence series. The great thing about this series is that there are consequences for actions and no real reset button. Edie is quite literally friendless and jobless this time out, and her enemies don't care about uneven odds. she treks into very dangerous territory dealing with some seriously creepy characters and the result is a plot that is fun, fast-paced, emotional, and at times pretty scary

After being fired at the end of the last book, in SHAPESHIFTED Edie takes a job at regular clinic. Seeing her out of her element was fun since she has to deal with human patients rather than supernatural creatures. I love that while Edie is lonely and depressed over everything going on in her life she doesn't let that hold her back from doing something about her situation.

While we meet new characters thanks to this new job, I was missing her old friends and luckily some do make appearances which is both thrilling and concerning considering Edie's shunning. One of the highlights of SHAPESHIFTED is Edie's new buddy Olympio, a young boy whose grandfather is a healer. He was a fun addition to this story with his 'street smarts' and his amusing interactions with Edie. On Edie's love life there is some movement and the nice thing about this new-ish relationship is that it evolves from trust and friendship rather than an out of the blue love at first sight thing or even lust.

SHAPESHIFTED has shifted the Edie Spence series into a new direction for Edie. Hopefully, her new friends and a few old ones will rally around resilient and engaging urban fantasy heroine. I'm looking forward to see what's in store for Edie's troublesome life in DEADSHIFTED, the 4th book in the Edie Spence which comes out December 31st 2013 by St. Martin's Paperbacks.

Sexual Content: One moderate sex scene

Ana says

Third in the series and the book changed the formula a bit. It made for more variety and upped the stakes for Edie. It was a pretty interesting story and the pacing was good though I had to suspend my level of disbelief at how quickly she and her theories were accepted in her new situation. Definitely a fictional world. For a pulp adventure though, it had all the ingredients. Technically, I'd give it 3.5 stars.

Angie says

Originally reviewed here @ Angieville

I do not know how Cassie Alexander manages to serve up two installments in her wonderful Edie Spence series each year, but I am not one to look a gift horse in the mouth. Please to be continuing in this vein, Ms. Alexander! Because this series just gets better and better. And finishing SHAPESHIFTED knowing I still have Deadshifted to look forward to at the end of this year just fills me with both gratitude and excitement. I worry about my favorite urban fantasy heroines. I worry. I am frequently forced to be away from them at times when I would really rather not leave. And when it comes to Edie, that was getting to be pretty much all the time. Her life was fairly decently fractured at the end of the last book. I wasn't sure how she would cope with the enforced changes, and I wondered how long she would spend on the outside once things started up again in the new book. The questions that occupy my mind, you guys. You wouldn't know it to look at me, but it's a cacophony in here. So when SHAPESHIFTED landed on my doorstep, I spent next to no time at all clearing my night (and my TBR) in order to dive right in.

A word: some species of spoiler is virtually impossible to avoid at this point. You have been warned.

No one believes Edie's story. Not that she's talking that much. She *is* seeing a therapist to try to deal with the . . . issues . . . that plague her. But even her therapist's open mind isn't wide enough to fit the host of supernatural creatures that make up her day-to-day life. Or at least that *used* to. Having been effectively shunned by the Creepy Crawly Community at large (and having lost her job at their hands), Edie is understandably finding it difficult to move on. Grasping at the ropes of her old life, she begins searching for work in a less hostile environment. The trouble is--after spending that long living on a constant surge of adrenalin, the sleep clinic she's temping for just is not holding her attention. At all. And so when an opportunity at an underfunded inner city clinic arises, she jumps at the chance. The weird thing is that, even though he hired her, the new boss doesn't seem to want her around much. To say nothing of the skeleton staff who openly scorn her ability to hack it in her new environment. And it does appear that she's landed in very much the wrong part of town when it comes to health. Vampire gang wars rule this section of the city, and old grudges die hard. A mysterious local deity known as Santa Muerte seems to have an unusual control over the poor denizens of the city, and everyone walks in fear of the unknown. No stranger to fear, Edie plunges into the chaos, determined to find answers to several of her most burning questions.

I just wasn't good at keeping track of people. The fact that no one ever seemed to keep track of me either was not lost on me.

It's quiet observations such as this one that make my heart hurt for Edie. They seem to form the rails on which she runs. They're also why I love her so darn much. She can be blindingly frank and impossibly cagey all in the same breath. When faced with a steaming pile of crap (which is oftener than she would like), she calls shenanigans.

"I'm confused--do you want me to be incredibly honorable and report you to authorities and not get hired? Or do you want me to be useful, morally hazy, and gainfully employed? Because, personally? I like the one where I wind up with a job."

And so I find myself grinning and grimacing in equal measure while following her exploits. Similar to my beloved Kate Daniels series, the world Edie inhabits is . . . messy. People die in the most undignified of

ways. Monsters (both human and otherwise) stalk the dark alleyways. And no one is glossy or polished by a long shot. Even the smoothest of shifters, as we find out in this volume, run up against walls they cannot scale. And so while Edie is flawed and eminently breakable, so are the shifting, swirling creatures around her. It makes for an equity I find monumentally appealing (and often missing in paranormals at large). I did wonder a little at first at the meandering buildup in this one. Pleased to see a familiar face here and there, the new ones took up a lot of page time and I wasn't sure how attached I was willing to get. But I soon began to appreciate the myriad threads being woven together, and when a turn I didn't see coming presented itself in all its sudden glory, I gasped aloud (sending DH into a fit of snickers). It was a *good* turn. And it was pretty much Point of No Return from that moment on. The marvelous climaxes and denouements in this series impress the hell out of me. This one, in particular, had me holding my breath for the outcome I discovered I wanted so badly. When it comes to urban fantasy, I want to feel all the feelings and I want them close to the vest while I feel them. It's a tall order, I know. But Cassie Alexander knows what's up.

Laura says

I think this is the best of the series so far. Every complaint I had about things just beginning to annoy me in the previous book was either explained or improved and I enjoyed this one quite a bit.

Being shunned by the supernatural world was probably the best thing to happen to Edie. Now, rejected, depressed and bored with her new job she sends out resumes and ends up taking a job at an inner city medical clinic in a poor hispanic part of town. I thought the change a scenery was just what this series needed. A new set of side characters is introduced, a few of which I really had fun reading about.

Bad news about her mother makes her desperate and soon she finds herself seeking out the supernatural world again in a desperate attempt to get help. She doesn't have to look far though before the recent past comes creeping back in. The result was a mix of new and old characters and events that I found to be really entertaining. We also get a brief explanation for the shunning which as it turns out was supposed to be something of a favor or a get out of jail free card for Edie, because while she couldn't seem to see it herself, others realized that the things she was being asked to do were taking too much of a toll, at least that's how I took it.

There were several things I liked about this. The setting I found to be interesting and entertaining. I really liked those characters which were part of that new setting. I also thought that Edie showed some personal growth in this. She grew a bit of backbone that was sadly lacking before. Someone else called her out on her tendency to put everyone else's needs before her own and her tendency towards thinking that the wellbeing of others was more important than her own.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

The number of urban fantasy series I still get excited about becomes smaller every year. I've been disappointed by authors and characters more times than I can count, and I even flat-out refuse to speak of a series that went in an unwanted direction. (I'd totally tell you which series it is, but you know, I'm refusing to speak about it.) I am very emotional where urban fantasy is involved and I can hold a grudge like nobody's business. But sometimes (rarely) an author surprises me in a very different way, and that's exactly what Cassie Alexander has done.

The Edie Spence series is right back on track and I'm happier than a bird with a french fry. My relationship with Edie Spence wasn't always smooth and painless. She is a very lonely character, a night shift nurse with a brother addicted to heroin and very few friends. In the first book, *Nightshifted*, she was so easy to identify with, and while I'm sure she would never want my pity, there were times when I just couldn't help it. The second book, *Moonshifted*, brought with it a different Edie, one who took loneliness to a whole new level. She was in a very bad place back then, but I didn't appreciate how she handled it. Instead of fighting for herself, she allowed every supernatural creature in town to walk right over her and it didn't take long for it to become very tedious.

In *Shapeshifted*, Edie is different yet again. Depressed, yes. Possibly lonelier than ever. But she is also determined to do something about it, to find a way to help herself and those she loves, and *that's* something I can work with. I adored this new Edie, and I loved seeing her out of her element. Her job in Y4 was fun, but working with human patients while at the same time struggling with supernatural issues was even better.

Shapeshifted shows significant improvement in the romance department as well. This is the second romantic involvement for Edie since the beginning of the series, and while the romances Cassie writes are never straightforward or simple (or even sweet, for that matter), I loved that this one had time to develop, that it was born out of mutual trust and friendly affection. I'm trying to avoid mentioning the name of this love interest, but it is someone I was rooting for from the start. I think he's the only one who really sees Edie, and he'll probably be great for her self-esteem.

So yes, I am a huge fan of this series once again, and I hope the next book will be as exciting as this one. Can I please have it now?

Shelley says

Genre Urban Fantasy

Rating 3.5-4

My Thoughts

Seven months have passed since Edie was shunned from the supernatural world and fired from her job at Y4 at the end of *Moonshifted*. Edie is having deep, dark, depressing times which no therapist could ever understand unless they found themselves in a similar situation. Things don't exactly get easy for Edie when her mother falls deathly ill, and she walks away from a boring job at a sleep study clinic to hopefully find something better.

Cassie Alexander really knows how to push Edie's buttons to the point where you ask yourself if Edie is ever going to get a true vacation away from everyone, but most especially, the paranormal community who has pushed her into corner, treated her like garbage, and nearly ended her life on more than a few occasions.

Edie is a character who really tries hard to be a good person, doing the right thing, and hoping beyond hope that she will eventually settle down with the love of her life and everything will be right as rain. Until then, Edie faces yet more challenges when she finds a new nursing job in a part of town that isn't exactly welcoming to her and is pushed by the shadows to find Santa Muerte so that her mother can live.

Shapeshifted actually is a step in the right direction for Edie and her romance angle. So much so that I actually have hopes that things will work out for Edie and she will eventually find her HEA when Alexander decides to wrap up this series.

What is apparent to me, is that Edie will never get truly and fully away from the paranormal community. They keep dragging her back in by her heels even though they shunned her and took away the one job that made sense to her. Because of who Edie is, however, she will do anything for her mother and brother regardless of how they treat her, or act out.

Because Edie is Human in a paranormal world, I tend to feel worried about her safety and her future of remaining human. I sincerely hope that Alexander doesn't change her character for ratings, or because it is expected by readers. It would be a breath of fresh air to have a character remain true to themselves and be who they really are instead of someone else.

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