



## Megan's Mark

*Lora Leigh*

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## Megan's Mark Lora Leigh

*In the first book of her erotic new series, Lora Leigh invites you to an intriguing world where genetically altered Breeds and the humans who created them commingle—and sometimes cross the boundaries of desire... Cursed with the extraordinary power to feel other peoples' emotions, Megan Fields has tucked herself away in a remote corner of New Mexico, working as a small-town sheriff's deputy. She finds solace in the silence and heat of the desert. But when Breeds begin dying on her watch, Megan realizes that the secrets from her past can't stay buried forever. Someone is out for blood—her blood.*

An arrogant Feline Breed, Braden Arness broods with feral intensity. His mission to solve the mysterious murders brings him to Megan, a woman who accosts his senses like no other. Only with him can she let down her guard—and surrender to the insatiable hunger that wracks her body. But as they team up to hunt the elusive killers, Braden and Megan find themselves becoming the prey...

## Megan's Mark Details

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Author : Lora Leigh

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Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Shapeshifters

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## From Reader Review Megan's Mark for online ebook

### Quinn says

*Megan's Mark* is billed as the start of a new series, but the only thing that differentiates this one from the *Breeds* books that have come before, is that this one is set around seven years later than the first six. Otherwise, this is very clearly just a continuation. In fact, I really think you would benefit from reading the first couple of the original books to get a better understanding of the background to the *Breeds* (even though the basics are covered off in this one).

I'm not sure how I felt about Megan in this one. She was an alpha female and pretty different from the other human mates that have come before, but she was a little too much for me and came across a bit overdone. I did like that Braeden didn't go all OTT alpha - he was prepared to 'allow' Megan to take risks and be exposed to danger, and *that* was a pleasant change.

I think *Megan's Mark* is stronger on the action element than some of the others, but what it gains in plot, it loses in the erotic element. There was nothing new to add - seen it all before and then some. The whole 'mating heat' thing was toned down somewhat - a good thing - but it was all still very repetitive. If I keep reading this series, it will definitely be for the plot, not the sex.

Oh, who am I kidding? It's a pretty safe bet that I'll be reading the next one.

### 3.5 stars

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### Mojca says

Megan Fields has been struggling with her empathic abilities for the better part of her life. It was her inability to block other people's emotions that forced her to abandon her life-long dream to work in "serious" law enforcement, so now she makes her living as a sheriff's deputy in a small town in New Mexico.

While patrolling the desert, relishing its quietness and lack of thought and emotion, she discovers two corpses in a shot through SUV. Two Breed corpses. Examining the crime scene she quickly comes under fire herself, surviving only because of the timely intervention of Braden Arness, another Breed.

Braden knows there's more behind the shooting in the gully than serendipity. Someone wants Megan dead and there's no better way to learn why than to stick to her like super glue...And when the Mating Heat suddenly kicks in, playing her shadow is even more pleasurable. But unless they uncover the truth of what Megan has seen to warrant her death, the relationship is bound to be a short one.

Okay, so this book is like one of those old movies on a Saturday night, curled on your couch with a bowl of popcorn, perfect to send your brain on vacation. You can just sit back, relax and enjoy the ride. I couldn't find anything that I didn't like in this book, except maybe the whole denial/guilt trip Megan had going for her at the beginning. Okay, you feel bad, you think you're a complete loser, we get it, let's move

on...But there was nothing extremely great about this book either, hence the average rating.

I loved Braden, I love most all of them Breeds, but Braden was the first in this series that really made me laugh. They all have that tortured soul down to a T, but this guy didn't let it govern him too much and decided just to merely enjoy the life he's been given. Some of his one-liners were to die for and I found myself looking forward to his snappy repartees. No matter what, he always landed on his feet, maybe it was the DNA.

As mentioned before, Megan was a bit iffy. It looked like Ms. Leigh couldn't quite decide what to do with her. Was she an empath whose ability was more of a curse than a gift, forcing her to live in isolation, avoid confrontations? Or was she someone who liked to be in the thick of it, fighting with all she was worth, loving a good argument as the next girl? The jumping from one to the next was a bit confusing and tiresome after a while.

And why do (almost) all heroines have at least one family member in the Special Forces who helped with the Breed rescues? Does that make for a better bonding or something?

I'm looking forward to read more about Megan's cousin, the sheriff...And Jonas. What to say about that guy but "When's his book coming out?". Gotta love the guy, although the silver eye thing is becoming a bit of a cliché. It's time for the authors to find some other turn-on attribute.

Unlike the previous books where the characters had more or less center stage, this one was a little more action oriented and I must confess I've been itching for a fight (figuratively speaking). The whole Mating issues were put a little aside, not completely forgotten, because the phenomenon is still the driving force of the entire series, but the acceptance came a little easier, letting other particulars of the story emerge and lend a helping hand to the plot.

So this time the combination was just right. There was drama, angst, sex, romance and action...If everything were blended together a little better, maybe it would've earned a higher rating.

Still, this was a good book not to be missed by the fans of this hot little series. For those first-timers out there, I'd suggest (as always) to start at the beginning and work your way onward.

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## **Buggy says**

Opening Line: "*They were created not born. They were trained not raised.*"

I haven't read any Lora Leigh for ages, I gave up on her after editing issues, recycled storylines and just plain lack of any cohesive plot became too much to ignore. I started to feel a bit used as a reader and figured if she didn't care about putting out a finished product why should I care about reading her stuff? Anyways.

After seeing several 5 star reviews (and because it had been sitting on my TBR shelf for years) I decided to give Megan's Mark a try, if I remembered correctly some of LL's older stuff was pretty good.

And initially it was, in fact it was a big surprise. There was a real story, with real writing and actual editing. Plus several chapters without any sex or the hero going all uber-alpha and doing the heroine up the bum to prove his dominance (that came later). It was sci-fi with an intricate back story and cool futuristic gadgets. Did I mention there was editing? LOL. It wasn't what I was expecting. Damn I might just have to revisit some of these older breed books.

So I don't really know where it went wrong for me qualifying a 3 star review, except that after my initial excitement and all the great world building and cool action scenes the story just kind of fizzled out. Yup, as soon as our couple started humping the plot stopped so that the last half of the book is just a bunch of sex scenes with an over easily resolved story. Too bad.

Megan's Mark is book 7 in the Breeds series or book 1 according to Berkley (I can never keep track of a correct reading order with LL) It doesn't really matter though because this one works fine as a standalone and has lots of back story explaining the history of the genetically altered "breeds"

The story is set in the future, 2023 Southern New Mexico. Megan Fields is a sheriff's deputy and an empathic, meaning she can feel the emotions of those around her. It's been a bitch to live with too, all those feelings invading her every thought and it's why Megan now lives and works in the isolation of the desert. When Megan discovers a murdered breed pair during a patrol and then gets targeted herself the big bad lion Braden shows up to figure out the whys of it. Braden is a half man/half lion. He's pretty yummy, not as alpha as most of LL's men although he has his moments ...

*"What he needed he had never needed from a woman before. The ultimate submission, a primal acceptance of his dominance. And by God, he would have it."*

Just a little warning if you've never read LL before she likes to use, how shall I say it? Some legitimately dirty words. You might feel like you need a shower afterwards and you definitely won't be putting any 'cream' in your coffee for a while. LOL

393jb3

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### **Jen Jen says**

This is the first of the series the really caught my interest.

There are certain things that I should pat Lora Leigh on the back for. Most importantly, Leigh created an excellent plot idea for this genre with amazing potential for action, intrigue and character and plot development. She has finally incorporated strong females in her novels instead of virginal damsels in distress, as well as women of various, yet ambiguous ethnicities. I have skimmed a bit further ahead than this release and I have a long list of things that are so annoyingly predictable in this series thus far, they are just "begging" to be put into a list.

1. "Being so hot etcetera will burn." Hope they have insurance and/or some fever reducers. Oh wait, just put the fire out with a ejaculate! Puts a whole new meaning to the fire department...
2. Nipples being equated to berries, especially ripe ones. Berry nipples are the only ones that taste good, but never like berries. Like flowers or candy or something irresistible to men. We all know they love those things.
3. Male protagonists drowning in vaginal secretions. Someone get them a snorkel.
4. The same, tired sex scenes. Over and over and over again. You know, you've got to cram those sex scenes in every five pages. But, didn't I read this exact same scene, oh, a few pages ago minus the shower? And didn't I read this same shower scene in the last book? The only things changed are whether it's a barb, a knot, or normal human penis, and the names of those in said scene.
5. You forget what the characters even look like, because it is so rarely mentioned. Most of the character's inner selves are deeply wounded and unable to accept intimacy. They're fighting the whole process but are

unable to resist, because they are DRUGGED.

6. The men must always be dominant. It is the way of nature! And for a woman to truly give herself to a

man, Breed or "human" alike, she's got to have anal sex. It's the only way. Didn't you know?

7. The women must always fight it. "Oh please, isn't there a cure Mr. Toothy?" But they inevitably relent and realize, "OH! He is the love of my life! Turns out nature and fate prevail over mad science!" All of this goes down in pretty much the same manner, in each book, just as the sex scenes.

8. None of the Breeds accept themselves as they are. Despite traumatic upbringings wrought with abuse, neglect, and brainwashing, historically people have risen above that to create "normal" lives, and accept themselves despite what and whom they came from. But every Breed is a brooding, self-loathing stereotype of the genre.

9. Leigh inexplicably uses the same tone and form for the dialogue for her characters, despite their backgrounds, regional dialect, and uniquely acquired vernacular.

10. Orgasm = love.

She had a good idea. Instead, she has written each novel with a weak plot and character development which is further watered down by far too many yawn-worthy, repetitive sex scenes, written the same as the scenes in the books preceding and following them. (I refused to use succeeding there.)

I truly did give it a chance. I really wanted to love it. I normally don't review. I just couldn't shut up after reading this far and getting more of the same. If more of the same is sashimi, at least I get different fish, with their own complex tastes. (Crappy metaphor and now I'm hungry.)

We get it. The mating heat. It's intense. Not so much nine books in.

Whatever sells, I guess.

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### **Corandra says**

3.5 stars

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### **Heather says**

This is actually the 7th (I think) book in the "Breed" series by Lora Leigh, although, aside from a novella I read in "Hot Spell" I had never read a "Breed" book before... and I'm not sure why? I adore Lora Leigh... so here goes...

This is the story of Megan. She is a law enforcement officer in a really small town in the desert. She likes to be as far away from people as she possibly can, because she is an empath. She doesn't have a lot of control over her abilities however, which makes being around people and all of their emotions very uncomfortable. So, one day while she is out patrolling the desert, she comes across two dead bodies. She gets out to investigate and she starts getting shot at!! She didn't even FEEL the bad guys coming! She's trapped and not sure where to go, when Braden swoops in to rescue her. He makes her feel so calm for the first time in her life. She realizes he is a breed.

The breed are genetically enhanced humans that have animal DNA. They have superb instincts and extra abilities... and they're hot!! Megan is instantly attracted to Bradon. Someone is trying to kill them however, and she isn't sure why. She just has to stay focused long enough to stay alive and figure it out...

The only reason I gave this story 4 stars instead of 5, is that towards the end, the romance kinda slipped a little and it was mostly suspense and action. I still really enjoyed it however and I would highly recommend it! Plus... the sex scenes are hot hot hot! ;D

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## Ridley says

I say I like erotic romance, but now I wonder. I don't like Lauren Dane, Maya Banks or, apparently, Lora Leigh. My claim is looking kinda baseless. More research is in order.

Anyways, the book. Oh, the book.

Megan's Mark starts off well. Megan Fields is an empath working as a sheriff's deputy in the nice empty New Mexico desert. The blessed lack of people and action leaves her at peace, leaving her free from the overload of feeling other people's emotions.

When she checks on a SUV left in a washed out canyon, however, that quiet is gonzo.

Embroyled in a shoot-out after discovering the bullet-riddled vehicle contained two dead Breeds, Megan has to make a run for it with Braden Arness, a law enforcement agent of some sort, and a lion Breed. Someone's out to kill Megan, and Braden is the man assigned to keep her alive.

The world building relied on a bit more info dumping than I like. A few instances of POV from a lion Breed named **Rothgar Bewcastle** Jonas Wyatt provide long bursts of backstory on how the Breeds were forged of animal and human DNA in labs and treated inhumanely, long-winded descriptions of the Mating Heat, and so on. After each of these, I expected to see stardust, a rainbow and "The More You Know" emblazoned across my reader.

The first half of the book sets up the action plot. It's not quite suspense, as we know who the bad guy is. We know it's her father's friend, Senator Mac Cooley, and that he's got her surrounded. We're just waiting for Megan to learn how to control her empath abilities and figure out that Cooley's the bad guy.

All of a sudden, it's time for the sex plot. Have you seen Monty Python and the Holy Grail? You know that part of the climactic battle scene when it suddenly changes to the colorful screen that says INTERMISSION? The sex is like that. I kept humming that organ loop to myself while reading it.

The action just stops, and Tab A, Slot B sex commences for the bulk of the rest of the book. And, speaking of tabs:

Horror swept across his face as she felt the change. The swelling of the already thick crest, the extension reaching out, locking onto the back of the pulsing muscles that gripped him, feathering inside her, pressing firmly into a spot that sent sensation crashing through her mind.

Penile barb, ladies and gentlemen, *penile barb*.

Another common claim of mine, that I don't read for prose, might also be false. This took me days to read because the mechanical sex prose, coupled with some very purple metaphors, kept yanking me out of the book. One egregious example:

His hand landed on her ass once again as she felt the fiery head of his cock breach the virgin portal

This lead me to create a new game for roadtrips: "Sex metaphor, or World of Warcraft quest?" Certainly "breach the virgin portal" sounds like something I did in the Caverns of Time.

Then, as quickly as the Sex Phase began, it ended, and the action plot is wrapped up in a 10-15 page fury of action, leaving just enough dangling to seed a sequel. Um, WTF? WTB smooth transitions, PST.

I'm sad to say that I did not enjoy the book. I did enjoy the action sequences immensely in a Michael Bay things go A-SPLODE sort of way, but they weren't woven together well enough with the sexxoring to hold my interest. I have the next few books in the series, as I grabbed them all when they were free, so I may try the next one. As it stands, however, I did not like how she wrote the sex scenes, and they took up much of the book.

Note to Author: Vaginal lubrication is not opaque and white. Repeatedly calling it "cream" turned my stomach. Opaque and white means the girl's got an infection. Those do not make for sexy cunnilingus. Jus' sayin' is all.

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### **Manny says**

Every now and then, something happens to you that reaffirms your faith in the essential goodness of humanity. A few weeks ago, Choupette said she would like to get acquainted with the Brigade Mondaine series which I have been so diligently promoting in my reviews. I sent her a package of assorted Michel Brice. She asked if I wanted any contribution towards postage, but I told her that I believed that my karmic investment was clear, and I would surely get my reward in due course. I was just curious to know what form it would take.

**The rest of this review is available elsewhere (the location cannot be given for Goodreads policy reasons)**

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### **Mimi says**

So not good. I mean, I knew that going into the book--just look at that cover--but I was not prepared for how awful the writing truly was. It went beyond what I thought I knew about awful writing and it set the new bar for what I consider to be the absolute worst. A bar, might I add, that's still not broken. It's been nine years and nothing I've read since then comes close to this book.

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### **Sharon ☺ is an emotional book junkie ☺ says**

3.5 stars.

I can definitely see why people say the series get much better with this book. Megan and Braden didn't even have sex till 33%.....that's amazing!! The story was interesting although I do have to admit that my eyes glazed over a bit when they were talking about all the weapons, GPS, and whatnot!

I was a little disappointed that Braden and Megan weren't as affectionate with each other as some of the prior couples. I don't think they even "just kissed" till around the halfway point of the book. I think they made a good couple but I would've liked more romance. Also, I just don't like the whole teaching them to be submissive = anal sex at.all.

And what in the heck is up with Jonas??? Wow....he was much more "mean"? in this book ~ and scary!! I can see why everyone was so interested in his book! I guess I'll have to "keep reading" to find out!

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### **Sophia Triad says**

Breeds 7

Feline Breeds 5

Featured Couple: Braden (Lion) & Megan (Human)

The story of this book starts 7 years after the Breeds become known.

Empathic Megan Fields has decided to isolate and keep herself as far away as possible hiding her supernatural "gift". New Mexico dessert is her hiding place but she will not be out of sight for long. Coyote Breeds for reasons she does not understand are chasing her and they have just located her.

Braden Arness is coming to her rescue. A lion Breed who has been sent to this mission by Jonas. Jonas, a feline breed himself, is the ultimate game maker, he loves playing with other people's lives and orchestrating end results.

This book is a lot action-driven. Braden and Megan are both adrenaline junkies. They are definitely made for each other. But I have to admit Megan is a bit scary (she has an arsenal of weapons at home!). Anyhow the Mating Heat comes somehow natural for these two.

The book was the first published by Berkley (besides the short story at the Hot Spell anthology). The previous ones were published by Ellora's cave. Maybe that's why this one could be read as a standalone and has lots of explanations about the history of the Breeds.

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### **Denise H. says**

Lora Leigh has this whole Breed series that is fabulous ! Love the amazing characters, action packed tales,

and awesome hot sexiness ! You will love this paranormal, futuristic concept and be hooked like I am. I've read them all, and loved each one.

Highly recommend ! ENJOY !!!

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### **Beatriz says**

Me costó decidir la puntuación para este libro. Siendo ya una lectora incondicional de esta serie y habiendo puntuado todas las entregas anteriores con al menos 4 estrellas, quería establecer una diferencia con ésta. Personalmente, no me gustó tanto la relación de la pareja principal; a pesar de ser muy buenos personajes, originales y carismáticos, me faltó esa chispa de romance que siempre estuvo presente en las primeras entregas y, por otro lado, creo que la autora le dio demasiadas vueltas a una trama que no daba para tanto, haciendo que la lectura, en algunas partes, se volviera demasiado repetitiva.

Sin embargo, mantuve las 4 estrellas porque, a pesar de lo anterior, la novela ganó mucho en acción, en escenas muy bien descritas y porque en ellas, debido a la naturaleza empática de Megan, la autora lograba una sensación tal de desasosiego, que hacía que se te pusiera la piel de gallina, lo que no es tan común en libros de este género.

De todas maneras sigo con la serie, porque la verdad, me tiene total e incondicionalmente enganchada.

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### **Dina says**

Braden was a wonderful hero: alpha to the core but a bit less domineering than the other Breeds I've read so far, and I got the feeling he knew Megan was the woman for him before the mating heat took over, which was nice to see.

Megan was a kick-ass heroine, as alpha as a woman can be, but sometimes she came on too strong for my taste. When she showed Braden the arsenal of weapons she kept tucked at home, the word "psycho" came to my mind. Why did she have all those weapons? She'd been living a pretty tame and safe life before the event that introduced Braden and the whole "Breeds war" into her life, so there wasn't really any reason to "collect" all those guns and ammo - hence the word "psycho", LOL.

Braden and Megan were two adrenaline junkies who were definitely made for each other, as no one else would be able to stand the kind of life they loved to live. And that's something that bugs me a little bit: I can't really see them living happily ever after - "ever after" being the operative words - because one, if not both, of them will likely "die in the line of fire" sooner or later. I know that never happens in Romancelandia, but that thought crossed my mind and it was annoying. \*sigh\*

This book was more action-driven than the previous ones in the series, which was a good change of pace for me since I've been reading all of them in a row. And it was nice to see the mating heat toned down too, because I was almost hyperventilating from all the "panting and sweating" I've read lately. ;)

As for the Epilogue... WHOSE file was Jonas studying??? I said it before and I'll say it again: LL knows how to write a teaser! She's hooked me to the Breeds and she's not letting go...

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## Zeek says

In Megan's Mark, I noticed a marked growth in Leigh's writing style and skills from the first of her Breed series. Fortunately, all the plot backgrounds that are missing from the earlier editions to the series are found here.

Meghan's Mark follows in the series timeline- 7 yrs later. It is definitely a stand alone novel, if you haven't ever read any of the Breed series yet, though I would recommend reading Tempting the Beast first for reference.

Set in the not too distant future, MM steps it up with a stronger definition to the world of genetically altered Breeds and the humans who created them, and with a deeper plot, while still holding onto the no-holds-barred sex that LL has come to be known for.

MM revolves around Meghan, a strongly empathic human, her family and Braden, a lion/human half breed sent in to discover why two breeds were brutally murdered by The Council, the shady government group who created the Breeds to be disposable assassins ... And why they seem to be after Meghan as well.

I have to warn you if you've never read LL before:

She ain't shy about not using euphemisms for sex words, she goes right for the gutter.

Yet somehow it works.

Oh and the males are uber-alpha. If you don't like strong, lusty, dominant men stay away from this series!

If you're familiar with The Island of Doctor Moreau and The X-Men, you've got the gist of LL's world, though no way near as creepy as H.G. Wells's novel!

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