



## Once Upon a Tiger

*Kat Simons*

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*She'll never run.*

Among the tiger shifters, Alexis Tarasova is regarded as fierce and dangerous, with a reputation that would make even the most daring tiger think twice about challenging her. Female tiger shifters may be rare and the mating run a critical part of their species's survival, but Alexis is the only female Tracker and will not back down, even at the threat of tiger law. She will not be forced to mate. So when a handful of males band together to force her to participate in the run, Alexis chooses to stand her ground and fight instead.

*He's forbidden to run.*

Outcast from the tiger shifters after a vicious childhood attack left him mute, Victor Romanov has never taken part in the mate run. He's never particularly cared, though, since the woman he loves refuses to take a mate. However, when he learns Alexis may be in danger, all bets are off. Nothing will keep him from her side.

*Together, they're unmovable.*

The chemistry between them burns wickedly hot and forges them into an unbeatable pair. Alexis knows that being with Victor means she will have to break another one of her people's laws—a move that might push the tigers too far. But, for Victor, she will risk everything, including her life, and do what she thought she'd never do—run.

Words: 23,000 word novella

## Once Upon a Tiger Details

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Author : Kat Simons

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# From Reader Review Once Upon a Tiger for online ebook

## CheekyReads says

This novella has the potential to be a 5 ? but it was way under developed.

Ok let's start with the good

Super kick-ass and lovable leads. Alexis is a badass enforcer (the only lady cop in the tiger shifting universes), while Victor is a mute (social reject), possessive strong hero. Mix that all up in a forbidden love arc

Now the bad

Nothing was explained or developed.

Not the characters!

Not their love story! It started with a (i see you at work sometimes) crush fast forward 2 days later lets get married and have babies. Like whuuut???

Not the shifting world! Here im so dang confused. What is the point of this forced run?? They tried to stop gang rape by forcing tigress into sex? Uhhmm... Hello that's still rape people!

Also who are the elders? If they're the all powerful and their word is law then where are the consequences? If not and everything can be gotten away with untested loopholes then why bother??

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## LastBreath says

I'm sitting on the fence with this one. Our heroine, Alexis Tarasova, is a Bengal shifter with an issue. Her people are facing extinction. Seems Mother Nature has gifted their species with limited females to procreate with.

For years Alexis had managed to avoid the Mate Run. Her skill set as the best Tracker had made her exempt. She handles the most difficult cases. A child, or finding another to Mate with will destroy all of her hard earned accomplishments. As long as she keeps the Elders satisfied Alexis is allowed to stay away during her estrous. Until now.

Forced into a corner, she finds help from Victor Romanov. A shifter who has been declared as flawed; who hadn't spoken a word since he was young. The only other tiger more infamous than her. The only other person who could possibly understand her plight. The only other tiger she wanted. The only tiger their laws have forbidden from the Mate Run.

With time and a damnable estrous cycle to deal with, Victor and Alexis must figure a way out of this situation. Either before the Elders force her to mate with someone of their choosing. Or before two others - Nick Jameson & Dev Gupta - steal in and complete the ritual.

It was an interesting read that explored a barely touched paradigm. Imagine being a Shifter and not being able to growl. At first it was difficult to appreciate. I think I expected too much from the Heroine. Just because she was a damn good Tracker, did she really think it would make her exempt from their laws she fervently upholds?

Once I leapt over that minor hurdle, I was faced with an inability to feel their connection. In words it made sense, but I never felt that romantic longing or that liberation of exploring the forbidden.

However it has got me curious. I will give the next book a go to see where the whole challenging of the laws will go.

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### **Maida»-(^v^)-» says**

I am a fan of the Paranormal Romance genre, and I am a definite fan of shifter/werewolf stories, so it comes as no surprise that I would eventually come across and read this story. However, with any shifter story comes that natural feeling of hesitancy, so I was hoping for the best and expecting the worst. Fortunately, Kat Simons' *Once Upon a Tiger* turned out to be a quick, easy and enjoyable read.

The overall story has its issues, from the very short length to some much needed plot-development, but since featuring just the right sort of fun I needed at the moment, I really didn't care all that much.

This book is a pass-the-time, feel good kind of read that incites all the romance-fanatic feelings. Along with the swoon-worthy forbidden romance aspect, it has admirable main characters (including a sexy, "strong-silent" type hero and a strong, take-sh\*t from no one heroine), some hot chemistry that leads to some extra hot lovin', and a fun plot twist that will leave you with one very sweet ending. The pleasant feelings that this book stirs is a welcome addition, and exactly the sort of feature that I love.

So obviously not the best shifter book out there, and yet definitely not the worst. I'll admit with much more attention paid to many plot issues, this could have been a higher rated read (for me anyway), but what it does have is more than enough to satisfy.

A fun and decent shifter read.

*Updated: August 18, 2014*

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### **Sadie Forsythe says**

The writing is fine here, but I'm afraid I'm just opposed to most of the plot on principle. We're supposed to respect the heroine because she so strong that she refuses the mating run (which is basically an institutionalized rape of any women in estrus), but that ignores the fact every other female in the society is basically a broodmare who has no right to refuse to have sex when fertile and apparently has to submit to whomever can catch her (again, without the right to refusal). I mean that the whole act is predicated on running away kind of highlights that. And this run was instituted to prevent rapes.....um.....she (any she) can't refuse.....the main character here faces five men sent to mate with her against her will.....who will chase and mate her, even if she tries to refuse.....even if she fights against it.....um.....THAT IS RAPE. I suppose we're supposed to assume no other woman wants to refuse. But really am I really supposed to believe that no

other woman wants a career or wants to start bearing children as soon as she starts menses? Beyond all that, I didn't feel the characters' chemistry at all. They were supposed to have loved each-other for years, but they avoid each-other, basically almost never spoke. So, what was that love based on? The repeated "I love you" got incredibly redundant, the sex was abortive and formulaic and, if the need for child-bearing woman was so severe, I don't buy she'd have been allowed to avoid mating in the first place, making the events of the book unbelievable to boot.

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## **Patty McKenna Van Hulle says**

Kat Simons

A rare female tiger shifter who kicks a\$\$ and takes no names and a yummy, sexy and silent male tiger shifter have a little magical help, whether they want it or not, from their packs Fairy Godmother to fight for their unlawful love!

Alexis Tarasova is a rare female tiger shifter in the Elder State Compound in West Virginia. She is even rarer because she is the only female Elite Enforcer(Tracker)and she trained for 4 hard years with her uncle and became the youngest Tracker ever. Alexis became a Tracker because her whole family was ripped apart by a male's jealousy and she will rule her own life with her strength, courage and if needed her fangs and claws! No MALE will rule her life and no forced Mating Run for her, ever! She would only let one male catch her, Victor.

Victor Romanov is the Elder's Lead Security Tech at the compound, but shifter call him mentally defective. When he was 4 years old, Victor shift into a tiger in front of humans and they both were almost beating and stabbed to death. His mom killed the humans and she and Victor were placed into confinement, aka shifter jail, and his massive injuries never healed and he lost the ability to talk. Now he lives a lonely and silent life with his mom. He isn't allowed to be part of the Mating Run and that fine with him because he wants only one female and Alexis will never Run!

Alexis is in her Estrous, which means for 3 days she is horny and fertile for any tiger shifter that can catch her, but since she is a Tracker, she has been immune to the Mating Run. She is pissed off when there are 5 shifters outside her home and another one stalking them. One is a fellow Tracker, Nick, tells her that she was basically been canned as a Tracker and they will force her into the Mating Run. The last shifter comes out in tiger form and she knows it yummy, super sexy and silent Victor and she is even hornier now. She tells them to try it because she will kick all their a\$\$es, so they leave, but stay in the area to wait for a weak moment.

Now we have one horny Alexis alone and in entirely to close to Mr. "I want to rip your clothed off" Victor. They can't and don't keeps their clothes on and get very down and dirty over and over again. When it comes down to the Mating Run, they have to follow the stupid Laws, No Killing and Victor can't, under any circumstances, be part of her Mating Run. What this passionate couple doesn't know is a powerful and "love conquers all" Elder/Fairy Godmother, Elizaveta Chernikova, is working in the background and will send her army of helpers if needed. What's a couple to do when their love is unlawful? Will Victor's love be enough for Alexis to overlook his silence? Can Alexis do the Mating Run to protect Victor? How many tiger shifter a\$\$es will be kicked, bitten and scratched to death? Will their Godmother be able to protect them both for the Shifter's Law? Will they have kids or a cute litter of purring cubs?

This is my first Kat Simons' book and I can't believe it's her first book ever. Ms. Simon creates a sexy, one of a kind and "people keep your A/C turned on" tiger shifter world. Her hero and heroine were both raised in tragedy and she helps them heal themselves. Lena is my favorite kind of heroine, a strong, determined and also an a\$\$ kicking one. Let's chat about her hero Victor. I love a scarred and wounded on the inside and out hero and he loves his mom, too. This books also unveils some hard, erotic and passionate sex with energetic positions that kept me turning down my A/C because I forgot to restock my fire extinguishers! Plus there was some fangs, claws and fur flying violence that rocked and made me cheer. The addition of a Fairy Godmother character, Elizaveta, was genius and helped pull the story together. I know Alexis wears ripped jeans with a leather jacket and that Victor has several cool tats and has that "just woke up" sexy look. How do I KNOW all these things? Because Ms. Simons' words built real characters in my mind with her writing skills. She enticed my sense of smell with great lines from Victor and had me wishing I had steal toed boots to back up my girl, Alexis. Ms. Simons MADE me love her tiger shifter cosmos and I can't wait to revisit! I also felt her true love and care for Victor and Alexis as if they were her kids. I give my top score of 5 fingers up and 10 toes for Ms. Simon début novel.

Previewed copy given for my honest review.

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### **Misty says**

#### **Enjoyable story**

Well written and likeable characters. I recently discovered this author, and I'll be buying more. I would recommend.I her to others.

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### **April says**

This book is exactly why I take chances on review copies from new authors!! I now have an awesome new author to add to my stalking, um following lists! If I am very lucky this will also be a new shifter series to impatiently badger the author about the next book.

The characters are terrific, I love a kick butt gal like Alexis. She is tough and sassy, but has a gooey sweet center. And Victor take strong silent type to a whole new level, yummy!! They have a great dynamic and one might wonder why they had not really interacted in the past.

The world is surprisingly well defined and constructed for the short length of the novella. Information is handed out at a great pace and I never felt lost. I can see this as the first book in the series, hint, hint. It is great storytelling and I was eager to read more. I was actually disappointed when it ended, not because of the story, but because the book was over.

Plenty of smexy steam to keep a gal happy!! Seriously, I love me some dirty talk, but silent dominance is sexy too! Who would have thought!!

This is a mixed narrative, my favorite kind!! You get a fuller idea of emotions and though processes when you get both leads POV. It really helps the reader feel more engaged in the romance.

What a terrific start for a newbie, definitely one to watch! Can't wait for the next book and I can only hope it will be a full length!!

Disclosure - I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts, opinions and ratings are my own.

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### **Jessica says**

I think this couldve easily been a 4 star book if we had gotten more development in basically all arenas.

Heroine: she was tough stuff and i loved it! She didnt back down from a fight but also didnt rush into them either. She was badass but had a secret romantic side too. The story was too short for me to really love her as a character.

Hero: Strong silent type...because he was literally mute. Again i liked him because although he was strong he didnt play the i am he man hear me roar thing with the heroine but i didnt really get enough to love him. I wouldve liked to see with both characters more development of their past so that rather than just knowing what theyve been through i felt it.

Romance: decent for it being so short. the 2 have always loved each other (though why isnt really clear i mean they didnt really know each other) but were kept apart by stupid rules. When they decide to say screw the rules things started to fly by. I wouldve liked to have seen development in both the past (to find out why they were so hooked on each other) and present (to actually get to know the person they supposedly love) relationship

Sex scenes: decently written but lacked oomph. especially disappointing because i expect something so short to have really steamy sex scenes.

Plot: interesting. Definitely a take on shifters that i havent read before but i have to say i dont quite understand the purpose of the run. It was created to prevent gang rape and the like but why does the female have to run to find a mate when she's choosing who "catches" her. If its her choice anyways why is the run such a big deal...why cant they just choose like normal people and get on with it?

Writing: Apart from the things ive already mentioned and a few glaring word usage errors not too shabby.

The world was explained enough to satisfy my bare minimum standard but it wouldve been nice to have more development here to make the world really come alive. I also noticed that though ive never been a fan of 1st person narrative ive been reading it so much lately that 3rd person narrative looks weird now lol.

Bottom line: not a bad way to spend a couple hours but it had so much potential that i felt was largely ruined because the length put a cap on the development that couldve made it truly great.

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### **L M says**

A very enjoyable short read though I am not too keen on the semi-forced mating aspect.

Hopefully the start of a series. I enjoyed the characters and can see more stories being written.

Added on 2018. Just reread this and still enjoyed it but will not be paying the price for the next book.

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### **Maghon Thomas says**

You know the saying "some like it hot."? Well I do, and this is it! It's a short novella, but it reads like a full novel! There's a perfect amount of back story from both of the main characters and it's not done in an info

dump that slows down the story. It's also maybe a little on the erotic side but it's also got plenty of action, a little mystery plot, some HAWT tigers and a lovely romance to wrap it up nicely with a bow!

Our Female main character is Alexis. She's a very independent, lethal tiger tracker. Meaning not only is she a tiger, but she tracks and kills the bad tigers. She's a fighter, not a stay at home mommy and she refuses to give in to her people's stupid rule of this mating nonsense. She does feel the need to help save her kind from literal extinction, but why right now? Plus, the one guy she wants she can't have. Boo. And then when her people go behind her back and force her into a mate, it's on. She's a spitfire and damn if she doesn't scare me lol! I love her. She's kickass but responsible and has a good heart no matter her tragic past, so she's cool no matter what. And she turns into a tiger for kitty's sake!

Victor is a HAWT mess!! He's perfect on the outside except he can't speak, so they've labeled him "deformed" and he can never mate. Plus, the one girl he wants won't ever mate, and she's lethal enough to keep it that way. But when she becomes forced, he's willing to stand by her side and help her fight her way through. Holy hell, this is THE PERFECT GUY!!! He's absolutely gorgeous. He's kind, he's loving, he's beautiful and he doesn't talk, OR TALK BACK!! Lol I want him right now! And he's a tiger! Yep he's AWESOME!!

So, after some threats and a little cabin fever we got the totally cute romance, but well done on the little plot twist on how they came together! I look forward to seeing the rest of their actions unfold with the elders lol. And maybe meeting some of those other tigers who got their tales handed to them. I liked the writing style. I think it was excellently done. In such a short time, I've learned a lot and look forward to so much more!! Well done! And since I can't say 5 wolf paws, I will say 5 great ROARING TIGER PAWS! Ooh and maybe some stripes too ;)

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### **Kelly says**

Ooooh. I liked this one. Mute male and strong female. I totally dig the strong, silent type and Victor certainly fit that bill. Add in a woman who stands her ground against overwhelming odds and I'm a very happy reader.

That said, I wasn't too keen on the machinations and maneuverings that put Alexis and Victor in the position they were put in, but... it did force them to face their feelings. Seeing as how those feelings had been simmering for quite a while, I think they needed a kick in the pants to get things moving. I'm just not thrilled by secrets and deception and those were a big component in getting them together.

Still, enjoyable. With TIGERS!

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

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### **Betti Anderson says**

A sweet short Story. I will think about reading the other Story too.  
Free!



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## Elaine says

Rating: 3.5/5

Alexis Tarasova is special - she's one of the few female tiger shifters and is also the only female Tracker, seeking, capturing and, if necessary, killing rogue tiger shifters. She's a fearsome warrior, not to be underestimated and the only female who is usually exempted from the mating run. Or she was . . . this time a handful of males turn up, determined to meet with her. She's equally determined not to run and not to accept any of them as her mate because there's only one tiger she wants as her mate, Victor Romanov, and he's not allowed to join the run.

Victor was seriously injured when he was just four years old. He was attacked by humans and one of the lasting effects is that he is now mute. The elders have never allowed him to take part in the mate run but when he hears that Alexis may be in danger because the elders have now rescinded her abstention so it is open season for the males wishing to mate with her. He's loved her for years, but whilst she never mated it wasn't an issue for him. Now he'll go to help her but can they resist their attraction or will they break the law? The chemistry between them is hot and passionate but will they let it consume them or will the knowledge of possible consequences of letting their love develop prevent them from doing so?

This is a lovely novella, written by an author who clearly has great understanding of animals which she uses to develop a great story about tiger shifters, though the fact that normally tigers are usually solitary and don't mate for life seems to have been forgotten! The characters are great, a feisty female and a strong, silent male fighting their laws and traditions to find their chance at love whilst being manipulated by one of the Elders who helps create those very laws. It is an enjoyable quick read - I'd love to read a longer, more developed version of this story as I believe that could easily be worthy of a 5\* rating.

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## Jody says

As a person with a disability who loves less than perfect characters, I was drawn to this story from the moment I read the synopsis. Ms. Simons perfectly blended the usual paranormal mythos but added the twist of its hero being seen as disabled and genetically imperfect after a vicious attack by humans left his vocal cords permanently damaged and him having to use sign language and writing notes to express himself. Though this is a short story it's long on entertainment and is surprisingly fully fleshed-out in depicting its main characters as well as future ramifications for current problems befalling the tiger shifters.

Unlike other female tiger shifters, Alexis has been allowed to help her species by becoming a Tracker and capturing those shifters who've put their secret in jeopardy, as opposed to being forced into mating to keep them from becoming extinct. She's an expert in her field where she's stronger than most men which is why she's so angry that her circumstances have suddenly changed. She wants nothing to do with the Mating Run as she knows she has more worth than just for breeding and especially with the knowledge that the only man she wants is unable to fight for her. With her entire future hanging in the balance though she decides to make a bold claim that will change the future for all tiger shifters in this emotionally intense and sensual story.

Victor is an immensely appealing hero who has been on the fringe of their species since an attack took away his ability to speak. He's seen as weak and damaged and is forbidden from mating for fear his weakness will be perpetuated. Victor has been accepting of his fate, thinking that the only woman he wants will never be forced into mating, until the day everything changes. Victor has always been supportive of Alexis, always there to comfort her and care about her. He's been willing to hold back his true feelings about her so that she can decide who she wants and this compassion makes him even more endearing. His mutism is dealt with believably yet subtly to enhance the storytelling and bind him and Alexis together in their own little world.

These two likable characters bring out the best in each other. They're never judgmental and always supportive of the other's capabilities. The attraction between them has always been there and the ultimatum Alexis is given allows her the freedom to admit her true feelings and throw caution to the wind to change the Elder's, and other's, beliefs. From start to finish this was a wonderfully entertaining beginning to what promises to be a sexy and compelling series. With the introduction of intriguing secondary characters and a game-changing addition to the storyline I'm looking forward to the next installment in Ms. Simon's Tiger Shifter series and highly recommend this to fans of the paranormal.

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## **Farrah says**

A sweet and hot paranormal romance novella, *Once Upon a Tiger*, was a lovely read. I really liked this book. It was a wonderful, quick romance that I really enjoyed.

Both of the characters were great. Alexis was tough and very strong. She was determined to live in a way that made her happy and I really liked her. Victor was super sweet and utterly wonderful. Other tigers underestimated him because of his muteness, but that was their mistake because he was strong and clever. I totally adored him.

The romance was great. Alexis and Victor were so sweet together, with how they had both been in love with each other for so long, but had been unable to be together. And the chemistry between them was hot. Definitely a lot of steamy moments between these two shifters.

The plot was fast paced and I was hooked the entire way through. There were quite a few thrills in store for a novella and that kept me on the edge of my seat. I really enjoyed the story and I thought the ending was so sweet.

*Once Upon a Tiger* was a fantastic paranormal romance novella. I really liked this wonderful book. Romance lovers, if you want a quick, lovely read, then this is your book.

\*I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review

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