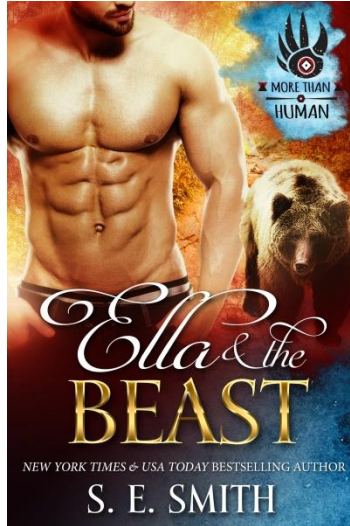


**Ella and the Beast:
More than Humans
Book 1**



By S.E. Smith

Montana Publishing
Science Fiction Romance
Ella and the Beast: More than Humans Book 1
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Summary: A human woman falls in love with a shifter, a beast known as the Other to the few remaining humans, and must decide if she will accept his offer of a new life among the dangerous world of shifters.

Excerpt from:

Ella and the Beast: More than Human Book 1 **by S.E. Smith**

Ty slowed and drew to a stop, glancing warily around him. If there was one thing he had learned, it was to trust his bear. He turned in a slow, tight circle, scanning the area. His head tilted when he heard a soft sound. It sounded like the whimper of a wounded animal.

He focused, narrowing in on the sound. It was further up the path, if he wasn't mistaken. Moving as silently as possible, he held the rifle up to his shoulder. He paused when he heard the sound again. It was very, very faint. If he hadn't already heard it and been focused on it, he would have missed it.

Stepping over a low branch, he saw the ragged edges of the hole up ahead. A curse escaped him. That stupid bastard had caught an unsuspecting animal, after all.

Ty shook his head in disgust. Maybe he would stay the night in town after he put the poor creature out of its misery and beat the shit out of the Wolverine-shifter – before giving him a hefty ticket for violating Federal Laws.

Flipping the safety off the rifle with his thumb, Ty carefully moved closer to the edge of the pit. He

glanced down into it, not seeing anything at first. Walking along the edge, he aimed the rifle when he saw a slight movement at the bottom. The hushed whimper reached his sensitive ears again.

No shoot, his bear growled.

What?! Ty frowned in confusion. It's better to put it out of its misery. It is obviously hurt. It isn't another shifter, is it?

No... It is... different, his bear growled pacing inside him.

Shit, Ty muttered, lowering the gun and stepping back from the edge.

He frowned down at the dark hole. Unsure of what to do, he debated whether he should shift or not, then decided against it. He needed to get a better view of what was down there before he decided if he should just shoot the damn thing, shift into his bear to scare the hell out of it, or rescue the creature. Whichever decision he made, it looked like he was going to get muddy.

"So much for cleaning my truck yesterday," Ty muttered under his breath.

He turned and leaned the rifle up against the dead tree lying across the path. Walking closer to the edge, he pushed his hat back on his head far enough to get it out of his eyes and knelt on the soft, muddy ground. Leaning as far forward as he could without falling in, Ty glared down into the hole.

"Sweet, holy bear cub!" He hissed when he saw the shivering figure lying with its eyes closed. "Hey! Are you okay?"

The figure winced and drew into a small ball, as if trying to disappear beneath the dirt. He frowned when the woman didn't answer. Gripping the edge, Ty studied the unusual female. She was wearing strange clothing, unlike anything he had ever seen before except in.... Dread and fascination warred inside him.

"Female, do you understand me?" Ty demanded.

The figure finally moved and the woman's head turned. Bright blue eyes, eyes that he had only seen in books, stared up at him in fear, pain, and resignation. He knew what she was at that moment. He had completed his dissertation on her species – a species that was supposed to be extinct.

"Please...," her soft voice washed over him, pulling an immediate reaction out of both him and his bear. "Please.... Kill me... swiftly."

Shock hit Ty hard. He could feel his head shaking back and forth in denial. Swallowing, his gaze locked with her pain-filled ones. His fingers curled into the soil along the edge of the pit, his nails lengthening as his bear fought to emerge.

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About the Author

S.E. Smith is a *New York Times*, *USA TODAY*, *International*, and *Award-Winning* Bestselling author of science fiction, romance, fantasy, paranormal, and contemporary works for adults, young adults, and children. She enjoys writing a wide variety of genres that pull her readers into worlds that take them away.

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