



Johnnie

Cardeno C.

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A Premier lion shifter, Hugh Landry dedicates his life to leading the Berk pride with strength and confidence. Hundreds of people depend on Hugh for safety, success, and happiness. And at over a century old, with more power than can be contained in one body, Hugh relies on a Siphon lion shifter to carry his excess force.

When the Siphon endangers himself and therefore the pride, Hugh must pay attention to the man who has been his silent shadow for a decade. What he learns surprises him, but what he feels astounds him even more.

Two lions, each born to serve, rely on one another to survive. After years by each other's side, they'll finally realize the depth of their potential, the joy in their passion, and a connection their kind has never known.

56,233 words

Johnnie Details

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From Reader Review Johnnie for online ebook

Chelsea says

Re-read - September 2015, June 2018 - still fun and easy to read. Nothing overly unique compared to other shifter stories, but sometimes that's best :-)

Review:

Yep loved this book! Just like always it's a sweet easy read, in this case a nice protective and possessive alpha and the extra special, yet totally normal man who was invisible but now seen.

Hugh was very ignorant to Johnnies feelings at the beginning of the book and seemed quite cold hearted, but he soon saw what he had been doing wrong in ignoring his Siphon. Hugh and Johnnie were just so great together and I loved seeing their friendship and then lust, then love blossom.

I tend to forget that C. Cardeno books are fucking hot... but they really really are, or at least this one definitely was! Hugh is such a good dirty talker and such a delicious toppy top! It was seriously sexy!! And loved the possessive 'mine' moments.

Elsbeth says

3,5 stars

Well.Darn.what.will.I.say?

This was – I don't know....

The story is about Lions shifters!! It begins that the Siphon is rescued from a suicide attempt. This would've been disastrous for the Berk pride as the Premier Hugh would've died also. The most important job of the Siphon is to release the Premier of his powers/burdens. If not doing so the Premier wouldn't stand a chance surviving.

Although Hugh has lived a hundred years , he is absolutely oblivious in understanding why the Siphon had the need to end his life. Being the Siphon, he has been ignored all his life, was not a real member of the pride and was feeling very lonely....

Hugh starts to take notice of his Siphon, trying to prevent him from harming himself again. He finally starts to "see" the man behind the Siphon. He names his Siphon Johnnie.

Gosh Hugh... Enlightning to know that that would matter to a person, being named... geez

The other thing I learned about this book is that Lions are horny and will fuck most frequently with females

or males for that matter.

Hugh considered the way other lions responded to him physically. “They enjoy our time screwing.” In fact, they seemed to enjoy it more than Hugh. For him, sex served a need. It emptied his body of semen and evened out his hormones and temperament. But relief wasn’t the same as pleasure, which was something he’d discovered a week earlier when he’d brought himself to a fast, but delicious climax while staring at Johnnie.

Another thing that I would like to mention, and Dani already mentioned it. But Hugh’s cock has spines.... I too googled this and found out that this is common with felines. It is meant to trigger female hormones so they get pregnant.

But with Hugh being human having this was.....

He felt as though dozens of tiny fingers were caressing him and every time Hugh dragged his cock past Johnnie’s prostate, those fingers tapped it one by one.

“Johnnie,” Hugh said, his voice hoarse, breathless, and confused. “Something’s different.” In and out he went, not slowing down or speeding up. “My cock is...” He arched his neck and gasped. “There’s more... I feel it everywhere... I...”

Finally I want to express my *utter* admiration for Greg Tremblay for narrating this story.... I know I was not supposed to, but I was laughing so hard... This story was ridiculous... But Greg’s panting and grumbling made it totally awesome!!!!

kudo's to you

So my final verdict will be:

Story: 2,5 stars

Narrating: 1 star extra!!!

Total: 3,5 stars

BWT (Belen) says

UPDATED 07/07/2015 for audio book:

Once again Greg Tremblay narrates beautifully. Completely enjoyable!

This is yet another winner by Cardeno C! It's all angst, fun, sexy goodness.

Possible trigger: Suicide attempt

Hugh is the Premier of a very large, very successful pride of lions, overseeing almost 2,000 lion shifters. Because he's a Premier he amasses an enormous amount of energy and needs an outlet to "siphon" it, a special lion shifter (always within sight or no more than a room away) that is able to draw away Hugh's excess power, so Hugh doesn't die.

The Siphon came to live with Hugh over a decade ago but he's unseen. No one communicates with him, no one acknowledges him, he's alive but does not live.

So the Siphon decides to kill himself. The night he almost succeeds is the first night Hugh finally "sees" him. In order to prevent the Siphon from endangering Hugh and the pride again, Hugh keeps the Siphon close. This means Hugh (finally!) begins to get to know the person who has been keeping him alive for last ten years. The first major realization? The Siphon was never named - when he was born he was seen to be a siphon and therefore kept away from everyone so he would not be harmed before he could come of age and be given to a Premier.

Hugh names him Johnnie.

The majority of the story focuses on the relationship between Hugh and Johnnie and their growing connection.

Once again Greg Tremblay narrates beautifully. He's able to take the different character voices and bring them to life. He's an auto-buy narrator for me - he's that consistently awesome.

Read 03/14/2015:

Admittedly, at first it's all:

But then:

And then finally, it's all:

And there's even a bit of DANGER and INTRIGUE!

But in the end:

This review has been cross-posted at Reviews by Jessewave

Adam says

It's Cardeno C and shifters. You know that's a good combination. And you already know what to expect.

There's the growly, emotionally constipated alpha. Who's a *lion* in this case!

There are a lot of sweet moments between the two MCs. Hugh and Johnnie almost put me into a sugar coma a few times. I'm not complaining.

A lot of hot sexin'. Your inner perv should be satisfied.

And a little bit of a action to top it off.

Overall, 'Johnnie' is a sweet and enjoyable read. Despite not being a fan at first, I've come to really like Cardeno C's brand of fluff. It looks like the next Siphon book was set up at the end, and I'm looking forward to reading it!

Dalia says

3.5 stars rounded up.

Hugh is a Premier lion shifter that dedicates his life to leading the Berk pride. Like all Premiers, he has black skin and hair. He's over a century old and weights three hundred pounds, because his body grows along with his power as he ages. Hugh has a Siphon that helps him storage his energy, which he can no longer contain himself.

Siphons, the blue-eyed lions, are rare. The Siphon can never be far from the Premier, otherwise the Premier will die. Even though the role of the Siphon is really important, he's not a valued member of the pride.

Johnnie and Hugh have never spend any time together. The first time Hugh really looks at his Siphon is after he endangers himself. Then Hugh realizes that he has been mistreating his Siphon for a decade and he tries to correct his mistakes.

Johnnie and Hugh's relationship develops slowly and they learn about love together. Especially Hugh, since he doesn't understand what that emotion means. However, Johnnie has always been sure how he felt about Hugh.

This story is so sweet. And Johnnie is just adorable, I want to squeeze him. Plus, now I know what penile spikes are.

Wendy says

How to say this.....

Unfortunately this one did not do it for me. I couldn't get into the story and I didn't feel a connection with any of the characters.

This book is about lion shifters. The Leader is called a Premier and he can lead large groups of lions. Over the years his power and size keeps growing. There comes a point when all that power gets to be too much. That's where the siphon comes in. A siphon holds all the power that is too much for the premier. Siphons are pretty rare so not all premiers have them. They are mostly given to them as a gift...A premier without a siphon will eventually die, because of a poweroverload. If a premier does have a siphon he can go on and live forever together with his siphon, because a siphon ages at the same pace as him.

Hugh is a premier and fortunately he does have a siphon. The siphon was given to him 10 years ago by a pride (pack) that was in a bad place. They gave him the siphon so they could emerge with the premiers pride.

Now Hugh is a dick !! He and everybody else in the pride have been ignoring the siphon, who at this point doesn't even have a name. He is always close to the premier, because if they get separated their connection breaks and the premier would die. Nobody talks to him, it's like he doesn't even exist.

Now when the siphon tries to take his own life, by hanging himself...Hugh kind of freaks. Everybody is upset about The siphon trying to end the life of their premier...bunch of assholes.

Hugh starts to spend more time with the siphon to keep him from making another attempt to kill himself. He gets to know the siphon and starts to really like him. Together they decide to name him Johnnie. From this point on their relationships evolves. They start to have feelings for one another and they start a sexual relationship.

Lions apparently, are horny bastards....the sexscenes were oke, but for me...I was already disappointed in the story and the characters, so I didn't really care. Yes Hugh has a spiked dick...what the fuck ever !!

I just didn't care anymore. There was no real suspense...there was a little plot in the back of the story about lions that wanted to uproot the siphon, but it wasn't really suspenseful and it was over in a flash.

They ignored him for ten freaking years....he had nobody to talk to and was treated like he was some kind of furniture. Maybe Johnnie could forgive that shit, but I sure as hell couldn't, so sorry to say i didn't enjoy reading this one.

2,5 stars from me :(

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

Woah, this was just... woah!

Cardeno C. crack in the hizzous!

I usually start my audiobook reviews by talking about the story and then, at the end, I talk about the narrator. However, **I just can't even talk about ANYTHING before I say what a freakin' AMAZING job Greg Tremblay did with this book.** He narrated his butt off! I can't even picture this book with any other narrator. Greg made this story come to life, and he proved again why he is one of my favorite narrators. I heart you, Greg Tremblay!

Story-wise, this book was pretty awesome, too. Usually Cardeno's stories are a little on the insta-lovey side for me, but this was a niiice slow burn. It packed a lot of relationship development in for a novella. To boot, I really liked the world-building, which I wasn't expecting. The concept of a premier and siphon was really well thought out, and I enjoyed the dynamic between Johnnie and Hugh.

The plot itself, the action, was a bit "meh" for me, but the super hot **virgin** sex made up for it. I LOVE me a virgin, as you all know!

This book, though not anything groundbreaking, is a fun, sexy, easy listen with an awesome narrator and an interesting story. You won't be disappointed.

Copy provided by the author in exchange for an honest review

Alvin says

The problem I had with this story was I can't get my head around on a fact that you'll fall in love with the person you've been ignoring and unintentionally mistreating for almost a decade.

Good thing the rest of the story was adorable and lovely. Plus, Hugh has *dick spikes*. :D

Try to remember this mantra I keep saying to myself to at least appreciate the story:

"They're not human, they're shifters. "

Or else, you'll go crazy understanding why their minds work how it did.

3.5 STARS. (rounded down)

Susan says

Re-listen January 2019

Greg Tremblay really brings this book alive. The story was enjoyable, but it's just such a joy to listen to this narrator.

Audio version (and it's SO good).

Narrator: Greg Tremblay

I really loved this one. It was way sweeter than I expected (I mean, helooooo, lion shifters). But of course it's Cardeno C, so I son't know how I could have ever doubted this book would be anything but sugary sweet.

This book was different than any other shifter book I've read, because there are no humans in it. These lions don't live with humans, they don't think like humans, they are lion shifters and therefore absolutely not human.

Hugh is the pride's premier. He is almost a century old and he is very successful in leading his pride.

When premiers grow older they have trouble wielding their power. They need a Siphon. A Siphon stores the premiers power and has to be close to him at all times. Siphons are very rare and Hugh is lucky he has one. Not that he has ever noticed him.

Hugh only notices his Siphon when that Siphon tries to kill himself one night. And with him Hugh and the entire pride. Because a premier dies without his Siphon and the pride dies without its premier.

It is then Hugh realizes he knows nothing about the man who has been his Siphon for the past 10 years. It becomes clear that the Siphon has never been treated as a fellow lion. No one ever speaks to the Siphon, and he doesn't even have a name. Hugh slowly finds out that life has been very tough for Johnnie, as he calls the Siphon now.

Johnnie has been ignored his entire life. He only knows depression. But all of that changes when Hugh finally notices him...

This story is **very low angst** and you might want to bring out the toothbrush before starting.

I liked reading about the pride and how they have almost no contact with humans. Hugh is the premier and takes care of everyone.

Lions don't have the same view on relationships as humans. They don't do relationships. Everyone kind of lives together, eat together, have sex together.

I loved how Hugh went from a regular lion shifter (having sex with everyone and everything) to being in a loving relationship with Johnnie. Lions are supposedly horny 24/7, so I was a little worried, but **there is no cheating in this book.**

I even liked the dick with spines sex! Different, but hot anyway. It wasn't as weird as I expected it to be and the spines only made an appearance at 70% of the book. It wasn't quite such a big deal as I thought it would be.

Very sweet, low angst story about lion shifters. Very typical Cardeno C.

~◊~**Doxni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says**

4.25 stars

CRACK, that's what.

I started this puppy late last night and couldn't stop reading. Despite being connected to an espresso drip all day, I'm still yawning. I blame CC. Also, Daylight Savings Time.

But this isn't about me.

It's about *Johnnie* the book. And *Johnnie* the person. And *Hugh*.

Hugh wins Oblivious Douchebag of the Century award. At age 102, Hugh apparently doesn't realize that treating a person like an object, ignoring his very existence, makes that person feel worthless. And people who feel worthless don't have much desire to live.

Hugh is the Premier (alpha, leader, president) of a large, successful lion pride.

All Premiers have dark hair, eyes, and skin. At 7 feet and 300 pounds, Hugh is a big man, a powerful man. His body needs an outlet for all that energy and strength.

So Hugh fucks a lot. But that's not enough. Hugh also has a Siphon, a lion with blue eyes assigned just to him, who always hovers nearby and draws Hugh's excess power. Siphons are rare and special, but the Siphon is just a nameless entity to Hugh.

Then a near tragedy forces Hugh to finally wake up and pay attention to the one person in his pride he's neglected.

The majority of the story focuses on the relationship between Hugh and Johnnie, Hugh's realization of how much he's wronged Johnnie, and their growing connection.

There is a side plot involving betrayal by one of the pride members, but there's not a lot of world building in terms of lion prides or shifters. How do 1,400 lions go undetected on land that abuts a national park? Does anyone have a job? Who cares?

One thing is certain: **Lions are sluts.**

They fuck indiscriminately and often. Group orgies and public nudity are the norm. And monogamy is nonexistent. Hugh has sex with all his pride members.

(view spoiler)

Hugh doesn't understand love.

But Johnnie does.

Sadness tinges the story initially. Johnnie has lived a bleak existence. The POV is mostly Hugh's, but we get glimpses of Johnnie's after he climbs out of the darkness.

Johnnie is so giving and adorable, and so damn wanton in his innocence, I can't even.

Maybe Johnnie's depression is too easily cured with Hugh's attention, but this is a shifter story, and shifters are not like us. I choose to believe that. Don't ruin it for me.

Another thing that MUST be mentioned: **Hugh's cock has SPINES.**

This is a real thing. Google "lion penile spikes," and you'll see. I just did this at work, so if I lose my job tomorrow we'll know why.

During my Google research, I also discovered that it's common for lions to engage in homosexual behavior.

Because. **LIONS ROCK.**

CC always delivers in terms of heat, and this book is no different. I liked the careful tenderness between the men that turns into intense passion. These are LIONS, people. They're going to fuck, and fuck hard.

And the HEA is lovely. Of course.

I want more.

CARDENO C + LION SHIFTERS

Rosa, really says

This is my guilty face.

Many, many months ago I promised myself that the next time I less-than-favorably reviewed a book by one of my favorite authors I wouldn't sound so damn apologetic about it.

But I knew I was lying.

Apologizing for your opinion doesn't do jack for anyone but I don't think I can help it--I've got a real guilt-complex thing going on here. Mainly about three things: my appallingly bad grammar, everything ever *ever* and the fact that there doesn't seem to be a writer in existence I can't find fault with. (Or with which I can't find fault. Is that right? Fuck it.)

Even Jane Austen. I love her more than I love my dog (maybe) but you know what, Jane? I FUCKING HATE *MANSFIELD PARK*. I hate it. I just want to karate kick Fanny Whatsherbutt in the kisser and then strongly suggest she take her thumb out of her ass.

See? Now I feel guilty and I'm talking about a book by a dead chick. I mean, I'm sure Jane was trying her best. Can't win 'em all...yada, yada, yada.

Okay, the way I'm talking you'd expect I also hated Cardeno's *Johnnie*. Which I didn't. I don't. I like Hugh and Johnnie and their romance. I like the whole lion shifter pride thing and the idea of Premiers and their Siphons--it actually put me in mind of the daemons in Pullman's *His Dark Materials* and whenever that happens I consider it to be a *very good thing*. (Unfortunately, instead of being treated like a treasure, Johnnie spends his first 26 years treated like a briefcase. A cell phone gets more attention than that guy.)

The problem is that the world-building doesn't feel so much like world-building as it does like repetitive info dumping. For instance:

Generally, after eating they all ended up fucking in one of the common areas. Sex was a tried and true method of bonding as well as a good way for a Premier to release his high levels of semen, so it was a regular part of Hugh's visits with his pride members. [loc 681]

Group sex was very frequent, particularly among lions who lived together, so when Hugh was invited to share a meal with lions in a Berk den, he was always welcome to join them for fucking late into the night. [loc 1109]

A Premier Pride, especially one led by a Premier as experienced and powerful as Hugh, often had over a thousand adult lions and, other than females who were interested in getting pregnant, those adults fucked one another with the same casualness and ease as a simple conversation or a handshake. [loc 2738]

So Hugh is a super powerful Premier (lion shifter alpha) and lions like to fuck. A lot. I got it. This information is very important to the plot, but I got tired of hearing it, and other info about the lion shifter world, over and over and over again. I'm capable of retaining that type of info the first time I read it. It bored

me so I kept putting the book down in favor of yet another fanfic--and this is Cardeno C., people! That [almost] NEVER happens. Usually once I start one of their books not even a Nutella crepe could drag my attention away.

I was also seriously bummed that there was no (view spoiler). I felt like there was a lot of foreshadowing but nothing every came of it. (view spoiler) It's not my favorite trope, but I don't think CC has ever had that in any of their books and I was seriously excited to read their version of it. Alas, no. Maybe in the next book?

So, basically [cue guilty face], it's a 2 star read for me. However, now that Greg Tremblay has done the audio version I'm really interested in listening to it. I might actually enjoy *Mansfield Park* if he read it to me.

The ARC was provided by the author 800 years ago in exchange for an honest review.

NEW CC!!!

Heller says

4.5

This was such an interesting twist on shifters. I liked how it was very insulated and focused on the community. I found the Premier/Siphon relationship very different from any other shifter book I've read before so I'm interested in seeing how the author expands and explores it in the further books in the series.

Poor nameless isolated Johnnie. This young man's story was so angsty and sad. More so for the fact that not one person in the pride noticed or cared about him. I don't blame him for his actions after years and years of being invisible.

One of the best parts of this read for me was seeing Hugh wake up and actually see Johnnie as a person and not a tool. This is a slow build and a sweet, sexy one. I wanted all the things for Johnnie who, even though he tried to make the most of the life he had, still yearned for more.

I was glad to see Hugh finally live up to those expectations. I'm so intrigued with this idea of the Siphons and where the series will go next with it. This was a great read. Lots of angst, interesting characters and storyline with endless chemistry between the MC's. I loved it.

Copy provided by the author in exchange for an honest review

Macky says

3.5 Rounded up

If you're a fan already then you'll not be surprised to find that once again this feline shifter story delivers on the sweet and sexy front. And you'll notice I said feline, because this time we've got big cat shifters, lead by Hugh Landry: their gorgeous, black in both his human and cat shape, 7 foot..300 pound leader or Premier...the lion equivalent of an Alpha.

Premiers are special. Stronger and able to live much longer, they possess a power that grows as they age to a point where it can't be safely held within themselves, so a 'Siphon' is needed as a receptacle to help contain the power overflow. Siphons themselves are a rarity and Hugh has only had his for a decade, since a smaller, weaker pride of lions gave him as payment for taking them into Hugh's thriving lion community.

There's a downside though. If the Siphon dies, the overload of power is fatal to the Premier, so they need to be in close proximity of each other at all times. Something that is brought home to Hugh and his lions when at the beginning of the book he has a near death experience brought on by his Siphon's emotional crisis.

For the ten years he's been with Hugh, Siphon has been woefully neglected and taken for granted. Not only by his Premier but by the rest of the pride too, to the point where he's simply become an asset that helps to keep the pride running smoothly...but an invisible one. When the near disaster is averted, it's a wake up call for Hugh and a chance to put things right for the undervalued and disheartened young shifter who he realises has never even been given a name...he's just always been 'Siphon'!

The first thing he does is name him Johnnie, which straight away makes the conflicted lion feel less of a nobody and more of a person in his own right. He's a complete innocent, in a way almost childlike; with quirks that when Hugh finally starts to "see" him, show that not only is he important to his Premier in terms of keeping him stable and steadfast as a leader, but is also unique because he has gifts of his own that are beneficial to the pride as a whole. Johnnie is a very special person, with a lot more to give if only they would give him a chance.

This is such a sweet story, made all the more so by Johnnie himself. I defy anyone not to be drawn to him because of his sad start in life and struggle to find himself outside of his usefulness to his peers. I think he's probably one of Cardeno's most engaging, adorable characters and I loved watching him blossom from just an insignificant pride resource, into a person with a true sense of self and purpose in his own right, as he worked his magic on Hugh. I adored Johnnie.

Hugh didn't work his magic on me quite as much, so I didn't feel as close to him as I usually do to Cardeno's MC's, probably because of his initial actions, but by the end he did end up endearing himself to me more. Ultimately though, my heart always belonged to Johnnie....

For rest of review follow Link: <http://bit.ly/1F0VdEL>

Ingie says

Written July 23, 2015

3 1/2 - Tender sweet and quite adorable

Johnnie is a newly published lion shifter M/M by Cardeno C. who's romances usually are tender good-feel reads. — 5:50 audiobook hours narrated by Greg Tremblay - one of my favorite M/M narrators.

Smiling glad & satisfied...

As with every Cardeno C book I've read is this a touching, easy read —yummy smexy— story about characters in need of love and friendship. ~ A good one!

Hugh Landry is a strong, huge, over an century old, lion-shifter leading the *Berk Pride*. With more power than can be contained in one body, Hugh relies on a *Siphon lion shifter* to carry his excess force. For his help is, like a invisible slave, **Johnnie** a young blue-eyed shifter. Hugh has in their years together hardly recognized his Siphon before the day Johnnie (then still nameless) tries to end his own, and with that also Hugh's, life.

Sigh, poor Johnnie's life has been so lonely and sad and I really felt for him. He was in such a need for love and to be cared for. Berk is a man with a big caring heart and when he at last "discovered" Johnnie was he so very touching sweet. Their spiriting love was like between young inexperienced teens, every kiss and touch was light, sweet and fresh. The 'steam' here is hot and intense and it made me feel even more for these two.

I'm not sure where or exactly when this story is set, it felt like a fiction huge African (or US) place where a lot of lions has enough room to run around without intruding humans. The feeling is nevertheless contemporary. This paranormal shifter "world" and their society is interesting and I wished for more facts about it. ~ The love story is a nice heartwarming read and perfect as an not to long in-between book. Maybe too much of a *two person drama* just speaking and explaining feelings and life to each other and not much of a real storyline, but tender sweet in all ways.

I both liked and enjoyed *Johnnie*, and this audiobook narrator, very much. A little bit tedious (much explaining, a lot of talking and less story) in the end, but anyway a recommended nice M/M shifter read. I'm looking forward to my next Cardeno C. book. ~ Cuddling cat shifters are always adorable to meet.

I LIKE - lovely sweeeeet reads

• * ° *• **Gwendolyn**• °**★°**★ says

Day 1, in reading

I'm on chapter 4
The dialogue is child-like.

And, I'm a wee bit bored reading....but...

I will try to continue, it has to get better....right?

Okay, wait, what? The Premier, is a Black guy, he drives an Escalade and his favorite food was fried chicken? Or so his tribe thought.....ok.... * hand covers mouth* C.Cardeno is that you writing this stereotypical bullsh*t! *mouth hangs open*, I am stunned.

*If your wondering if this is indeed sterotype thoughts--> google it, it's easy to find.

IMO, the Premier is a slut, and **a clueless ASSHOLE!** And, that has nothing to do with race, he is who he is, a clueless asshole.

Reality check...there is a whole Pride--> full of clueless assholes in this book.

Sometime later.....reading....

Somewhere near 60%...I read this...

“Mmm. Mmm. Mmm,” Johnnie moaned as he gulped”

Verbiage-child-like....so....

I cry, uncle, I give...I can not go on.....I had enough. This is a *delete*
