



Thirst

Lisa Worrall

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A dark killer haunts the streets of Los Angeles, stalking unwilling victims and draining their blood. When the evidence runs dry, Detective Max Bowman quenches his thirst at his local bar hoping for inspiration. Instead, he's robbed and left for dead in the alley. Waking up in the warm bed of horror novelist Carter Gray was the last thing he expected, but it may be the lead he needs. For Carter hides a dangerous secret behind his life as a bestselling author and it might be the answer, no matter how unbelievable, Max has been looking for.

But as they search for the killer, Max begins to wonder if he's being led in circles by a mastermind of plot twists and deception.

Thirst Details

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From Reader Review Thirst for online ebook

DaisyGirl says

2.0 Stars

Detective Max Bowman is hunting a serial killer who leaves bodies drained of blood. One night he is the victim of a gay-bashing; he's attacked, robbed and left for dead. Upon waking, he discovers himself in Carter Gray's bed. Carter is an unrepentant vampire. He has never questioned his nature or his needs until he meets Max. Now, everything is turned asunder as they try to unravel the mystery of who is responsible for the trail of bodies across the city.

I didn't like this book. I get that Carter was unapologetic for who and what he is but he came across as so cold and callous (he kills men, women, AND children without remorse) that it was impossible for me to warm up to him. Max was okay but hypocritical. He's a tough cop dedicated to protecting the public, on the one hand, but slutting it up with a confessed murderer on the other. I think part of the problem is that both the MCs came across as really self-absorbed and uncaring about anyone or anything outside of themselves. So not heroic, in my book.

Bottom line: I am a HUGE Lisa Worrall fan and that has not changed. This one didn't work for me. I recommend picking another of her exceptional books.

karlakolumna says

[Max for example is a cop, a very good one at that, so the

Phaney says

2012 Review:

** Probably spoilerish despite tag-use. **

Dark, very dark.

We don't often see protagonists who don't give a thought to the lives they take for their enjoyment. (The cannibalism in that recent volume of Christian's Coven might apply but it's still rare.) Carter here is completely amoral, only interested in his own pleasure. It's gruesome how he casually disposes of his victims afterwards, and the descriptions of the sex preceding the killing kind of make it even worse.

Another thing we do not get all that often: Both protagonists here have explicit sex with other people instead of each other. Usually I hate that, but in this case things are already so dark and removed from comfort that it fits in with everything else.

And when they do get together for real it's harsh and brutal, only tempered by the desperate emotion somehow ringing through.

In any event, as soon as things between the guys settle into something approximating comfortable (to me) (view spoiler)

When I initially picked up the book, I certainly did not expect to encounter any of this. Goes to show how much I know.

On a side note, there's something that's always irritated me regarding certain vampire stories. There are those where the vampire has to feed daily, and almost always kills when he or she feeds. The classics, pretty much. This is the case here. So Carter's been killing at least one person per night for eighty-four years? That's approaching levels of epidemic. No way can that have gone unnoticed, even if he hid the bodies. The sheer number of people gone missing... There's just no way this logically works out, *especially* if at times there is more than one vampire and they're settled down instead of being constantly on the move. That's a big void of logic and reason right there.

Some stories are worse in that a bite/killing also infects the victim. If that were the case and the rate of deaths this high, humanity would be erased pretty damn fast.

Back to the story. In the end it wasn't bad. Something just felt off about this whole thing, I mean besides the murderous ways of one of our heroes. Maybe that's only me, though, because I am feeling really weird these days and moody as hell. It probably did not help that a few times I got caught up reading through something much more fluffy instead. The contrast was really quite stunning, heh.

I guess I liked this book, after everything's said and done. I certainly don't mind that our couple is blissfully happy for eternity now, or that (view spoiler). ... Um. Yeah.

Don Bradshaw says

A neat twist on a vampire story here. Detective Max Bowman is working a case looking for what seems to be a serial killer. He is jumped one night and beaten badly by two guys. Max wakes up in a bedroom feeling like hell but has no clue where he is. Carter Gray, renown author and vampire, walks into his bedroom to check on Max and wham there's a connection between the two men. Carter plans on drinking Max dry so he tells Max about how he rescued him and killed his two attackers. This is not a case of insta-love but both Carter and Max feel differently and blame the other for those feelings. When the two men finally realize that they are soul mates the action between those silk sheets doesn't stop. The story has a couple of flashbacks to the time Carter spent with his sire which explains a lot of the mystery. I'll leave that up to the reader to discover instead of writing a spoiler. There is one short m/f scene where a woman is being sucked dry by a vampire during sex but it's no big deal. The story is very well written and the ending is full of surprises. This is a must read for any vampire fan.

Meghan says

I was pleasantly surprised by this book. I was afraid it was going to be all sex, but it was a good blend of mainly character development with a dash of real drama.

T.A. Webb says

Max Bowman made a big mistake. A cop should know better. But he let the pretty guy buy him one too many drinks then followed him out into the alley. And got the crap stomped out of him, robbed and left for dead.

When he wakes up, he is in bed. A strange man's bed. With only fuzzy memories of what happened to him. But the physical reminders will be with him for a while. Bruises, ribs sore as hell, barely able to stand at first.

Then he meets Carter, his savior. Intense. Gorgeous. Lethal.

When Carter tells Max he eliminated his attackers - killed them - the news staggers him. As does the knowledge that Carter is a vampire. A hundred year old sexy vampire who is immediately attracted to this...human.

Carter knows it's a mistake to not drain this man and eliminate the danger to himself. But he can't bring himself to. There is a connection there he cannot deny. So he send his home and trusts it is done.

But Max is not done with Carter yet. The connection they share is strong. A link. And he is shocked to find he can feel Carter's presence. This is a dangerous thing for Max, because he is investigating a string of murders where the victims are drained of blood.

Surely it can't be. Not Carter.

Unable to fight the connection, the two meet and the passion spills over. Neither expect it, but they cannot deny they are made for each other. Lust for each other. But it has no future, Carter thinks. He has no interest in seeing Max age and die, and he cannot bear to turn him.

But with danger breathing down on him from the vampire who made him, he may not be able to protect himself, let alone Max.

Will the two find a way to be together, or will Carter's past prove lethal? Will Max let his soul mate slip through his fingers? And will either live to see another day?

Lisa Worrall has crafted a smart and interesting story of soul deep connection and love against a backdrop of vampires, retribution and loss. This is a hot and sexy romance first and foremost, and we never forget it. Max and Carter steam the ink off the pages.

Ms. Worrall's strength lies in the characters she creates. Strong, wonderful and complete men who dare to love. Max is all bluster and cop attitude, but underneath a man searching for someone strong enough to make him his. And Carter, so resigned to his life and how it has to play out, but so wanting and needing of a connection.

The background characters are wonderfully written also. Lyle and Boyd add tension and interest. Especially Lyle. I would like to see his story told next.

Hot. Rich. Sexy.

Great job, and another great book from Ms. Worrall.

Tom

Valentina Heart says

This review was originally written for The Romance Reviews and can also be found there.

THIRST is one of those books that will surprise you with details that most authors would avoid writing about. I wouldn't say it's unique, but it is certainly something you don't see in many vampire books mostly because readers can be harsh and aren't very forgiving when it comes to moral issues.

Max is a detective who is attacked one night and then rescued by a stranger. He's investigating a series of killings where the bodies have been drained of blood and mutilated and it doesn't take him long to realize his mysterious stranger might be related to the crimes.

I was mostly intrigued by this book because it was unconventional and I was interested in the ending. I can't say it held my attention at all times and I certainly didn't love every part of it, but the harsh vampire reality was refreshing among the romanticized versions other books have to offer.

Carter is pretty vicious and has no remorse whatsoever. He actually kills his victims nightly and has no intention of stopping. Max is a bit of a conflicting character. He changed his mind way too often for my taste and his relationship with Charter had that on/off quality which just didn't work for me. Some parts of the book seemed added for the pure convenience and others made no sense even with the explanations. The plot just wasn't as tight as I'd expected it to be as the guys could have handled their situation better.

I was actually thinking about rating this with two stars because I stopped reading too many times and ultimately did have to force myself to finish, but then, there at the end, I got to meet Lyle and he was just as intriguing as the beginning of this book and made me laugh a few times in a pretty limited amount of page space. In addition there was a really touching scene that made me tear up and a book that does provoke a reaction certainly isn't a two star read.

I did like the boldness of this author and will to just go ahead with the idea no matter the objections. I love the harsher sides of books and I have to say this author has some real potential. I wouldn't mind reading another paranormal with more refined characters and a stronger connection. If there's a sadistic strike in it – even better.

Ami says

For those who are worried about the warning of M/F scene or dislike girly bits on M/M story, I believe it's not significant: **SPOILER:** The female is one of Carter's (the vampire) victim, as he drained her after having sex with her, in order to 'banish' Max (the cop) from his mind. It's only several paragraphs, she doesn't even have a name, so I believe she's basically unimportant.

Okay, that is done, now onto what I think of the story. I like how Carter is portrayed; he's not a vampire with good morale. He *is* a vampire, so he hunts and kills his prey. No regrets on that. I also quite like the bad guy in the end, with his snark and (again) unapologetic attitude; he's a monster, but he's good at what he does.

Other than that, I'm bit ambivalent. I think Max, is weakly portrayed as a cop. Actually, he can be ANYTHING but a cop. Max starts the story being a victim of bashing (he's a cop, shouldn't he be suspicious by nature, including with his dates?). Then the rest of the story, he spends his time either questioning about his attraction to Carter or mooning over him and he 'quickly' accepts Carter's admission of murder (even if there's some internal monologue, but Max comes back to Carter quite fast). I have to admit, personally, that is not attractive. I can't help it, I love my thriller/suspense/mystery genre so with a cop character, I am wishing for more spine. So let's just say, cue eyes rolling most of the time.

The sex is hot, but after awhile, I skim them -- I'm always a "more story rather than more sex" kind of a reader. Considering how it ends, I feel sorry for those murder victims as their murders will definitely be considered as "unsolved".

PS: The editing is better than the previous Silver Publishing book I read, but I still catch one example of bad editing: *You're a cop, you're life's ambition is to save people*. Isn't it supposed to be "your life's ambition?" not "you're"?

Pixie Mmgoodbookreviews says

4 Hearts

First published at MM Good Book Reviews

<http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.co...>

Max is attacked after he picks up a guy in a bar; just as everything goes black he is rescued. Carter doesn't know what came over him when he rescued the guy from the bar and what's worse he wasn't able to drain him dry, now he has the sexy man in his bed asking him questions.

This is a well written novel with the concept of vampires always draining their prey. Carter has been around for a while now and his sire taught him to cover up his kills well, but when a man is attacked and he comes to the rescue he tosses his prey away carelessly. Max is the man he rescued, a detective who is hunting a serial killer. Max asks questions but the answers he gets are hard to believe, but when the bodies of the two men that attacked him are recovered he learns that things are not quite as they seem.

Carter and Max are both surprised by their reaction to each other and as they get to know each other Carter begins to realize that his past has caught up with him and he has put Max in grave danger. Max is drawn to Carter, but he is a detective and Carter a killer. How can he reconcile the two? Max and Carter make a passionate and erotic couple, both trying to fight what they feel, but unable to.

Now there is a warning that there is a m/f scene and to be honest with you I found it easy to discount because it was a case of Carter playing with his food. it had no bearing on the story other than as a way for Carter to eat and to try to get his mind away from Max. I thought Lyle and Boyd were very well written, but I wanted a more violent confrontation between Carter and Lyle when the truth emerged (I am bloodthirsty), the ending

could have been left open for Lyle's story but we will just have to wait and see.

So all in all I have to recommend this to those who love darker vampires, scorching sex, conflicted emotions, vampires bent on revenge and a great story-line and a happy ending.

Lasha says

3.5 stars.

Thirst has one of my favorite tropes in a paranormal romance: a vampire in love with a human. In this incarnation, Detective Max Bowman is saved from being gay-bashed to death by vampire Carter Gray. Once he learns Carter's secret, Max is determined to get the other man to help him track a serial killer who is more than likely a vampire too. Carter wants to resist, but Max's charms are considerable.

What I liked about Thirst was that Carter was not a Twilight-like vampire. No, Carter likes killing, makes no apologies for it and demands Max accept him for what he is: a monster. There are no vegetarian vampires in this novel! Carter's dark side was a nice change from the usual brooding, guilt-ridden vampires you get in this genre. Plus the chemistry between Max and Carter was so hot, I think my Kindle nearly caught fire a couple of times.

However, despite my love of dark vampires, there were a few issues I had with the book. First, there was too much sex and not enough relationship development for me. I understand that Max and Carter were attracted to each other, but I wasn't sure why they were in love with one another. Also, if you prefer your love interests to be faithful to each other as soon as they meet, you'll be disappointed by Thirst, as Max and Carter do have sex with others, including women.

Second, the antagonist in the book is pure evil for a good 90% of the novel, then towards the end, the author tries to redeem him, which seemed a stretch for me. I didn't buy it. Third, the book needed to be tightened up, the plot could have been cut by 15% and still been taught and suspenseful.

Overall, this is not my favorite Lisa Worrall book, but it was a fun read on a lazy afternoon, especially if you like vampires who don't sparkle.

Dark Divas Reviews

The Novel Approach Reviews says

As paranormal stories go, Thirst rises above the norm by throwing in some chilling twists and turns that keep the suspense level high in this previously released novel by Lisa Worrall. Centering on an ongoing case of ex-sanguinated and brutally murdered victims, Detective Max Bowman has his hands full hunting down a ruthless killer. When he stumbles upon the very person who might be responsible for the ghastly crimes, it is certainly not his intent to be both sexually drawn to and somehow inexorably linked to Carter Gray. As this novel progresses, the question quickly becomes not who is the culprit but whether or not Max wants to be

claimed by the very thing he is hunting.

Vampires. Not every paranormal story gives them some new twist or often changes the rules by which they are governed, so when Lisa Worrall poked fun at the very genre she was writing in by making an almost tongue-in-cheek reference to a more notable sparkly vamp in her novel, I had to laugh. However, it made me realize how different her vampires were and how very little affected or changed their personas. It also made Carter stand out more starkly as one that had spent eighty plus years taking lives both indiscriminately and rather callously. When he admits to Max that he is little more than a murderer and rather proud of it, it is clear one is not reading the “typical” paranormal. Carter had very little remorse and thus, was not a tortured soul. He was strong, determined and conceded very little ground. No, it was Max who would do most of the groveling and begging. And, though Max did indeed beg, he remained intrinsically unchanged as well, and determined to find the killer at any cost.

The strength of this story lies in how little the focus of its main characters changed. By falling in love with each other, there was no huge shift in how Carter operated or in how Max pursued his job. Here were two strong men who remained strong even as they grew to depend more and more on each other. This is precisely why this paranormal story refrained from falling into that feeling of “sameness,” while most in this genre seem to have. (view spoiler) Our two lovers change little and there is a real sense of relief that they will have some definite adjustments to make as they go forward. The package that was delivered by novel’s end was not neat and pretty but still compelling and interesting overall.

Lisa Worrall’s Thirst was nicely delivered and gave some real spark to a genre that is often marked by the same type of storyline which struggles to be fresh. If you like the paranormal, then this novel will not disappoint.

Gabbi says

<http://top2bottomreviews.wordpress.com/>

For months, Detective Max Bowman has been investigating the mysterious deaths of the victims being drained of their blood and then tossed away like trash. Having few leads, he decides to drink his frustrations away at the local watering hole. Almost as soon as he arrives, he is flirted with a young man who continues to buy him drinks until he is more than a little drunk. Soon, the young man ushers him outside with the promise of some illicit and naughty fun in the alleyway. But, before Max knows what’s going on, he is attacked and robbed by the young man and his friend with the intention of Max being left for dead.

Carter Grey is a hungry vampire on the hunt for his latest victim. While sitting in the shadows of the bar, he notices and is immediately drawn to the handsome Max. Instinctively knowing that the young man plans to do Max harm, he finds himself following them outside where he witnesses Max being beaten and almost killed. Going against his own killer instinct, Carter saves Max and uncharacteristically brings him to his home so Max can heal. After Carter saves Max, he is conflicted by the emotional pull he has toward him, and his behavioral habit of usually killing humans instead of having a relationship with them. But, once Max awakens and they begin to talk, the spark of attraction between them turns into a blaze that will not be denied. But, what will happen when Max finds out that Carter is vampire, and if Carter connected to the killings he’s been investigating?

I really loved this book! I thought both Max and Carter were interesting and intriguing characters that kept me captivated with the story they told. Both heroes are not perfect, they are flawed and often tormented characters forced to make a hard decisions about what they want and what they're both instinctively need to do. I thought both heroes were strong men that were thrown in an almost impossible situation, but somehow manage to fall in love and still manage to solve the mystery of the killings that Max is investigating. Neither man is really looking for love. Max has come to believe love will really never happen for him, and Carter has told himself he's nothing but a killing machine/monster and doesn't deserve or really believe in love. I really enjoyed watching these two men work through all of their emotional baggage and realize that their love was worth fighting for.

Carter was a very unique vampire. He's unapologetic about having to feed and kill humans for food. At first, he doesn't really have much of a conscience; he believes does what he's instinctively programmed to do...which is being a killer. Even though Carter can come across as a very cold hearted person, I couldn't help but like him. I understood why Max saw something in him worth saving, and I really enjoyed watching Carter's character evolve as the novel progressed. The chemistry between Carter and Max is so sizzling hot, I swear on more than one occasion, my e-reader steamed up from the intensity between them. I truly loved them together and enjoyed every moment they shared together in this book.

I'm afraid there will be some people who will shy away from this book because of the M/F warning on the blurb. Yes, there is a VERY small incident between Carter and a female, but she really means nothing to him. Carter IS bisexual, but honestly she is nothing but a meal in Carter's eyes. I hope that this will not keep some readers away, because it is just a small blip in the story itself and it certainly did not keep me from really enjoying the journey Carter and Max had together.

Thirst is a unique and fast-paced story that kept me captivated with the storyline from start to finish. In a world of sweet and innocent vampires, it was refreshing to read something different. I was also intrigued by Lyle, who is Carter's nemesis, and was heartbroken from the loss of his soul-mate. Although the ending ends happily, I can't help but hope Ms. Worrall writes more about these characters *cough* Lyle *cough* in the future.

Simsala says

I had a hard time with this fast paced vampire romance thanks to the inconsistent - almost schizophrenic - behaviour of the characters. The big, bad cop went from weak to tough and back again, the vampire from lethal and icy-cold to lovesick puppy and back - the one and only steady character in the story was Carter's valet Gordon. But what bothered me most was the end. Unimaginable cruelty and viciousness was excused with a clap on the shoulder and an "Oh, sorry - I was wrong, let's go our separate ways"!! Huh? My revengeful heart was NOT satisfied...

Many sex scenes with an "ouch!" here and there that slightly disrupted the flow of the story at times. Overall an o.k. - read.

Morgan Skye says

Max is a homicide detective who gets jumped one night by haters and almost killed. Carter, the vampire, saves him – intending fully to finish him off himself – only to find he can't do it.

Carter ends up taking Max back to his home where he nurses him back to health and sends him on his way after admitting to being the cause of several of the murders Max is trying to solve.

Something about Carter continues to call to Max and vice versa even though both know they should not have feelings like this for someone so diametrically opposed to their way of life. Max hunts killers and Carter is a killer.

It becomes clear that though Carter never thought he deserved a soul-mate he has one: Max. Carter doesn't want to convert Max and make him a killer like he is, but he also doesn't want to lose Max.

In the meantime Carter is being hunted by one of his own kind and Max gets caught in the crossfire.

In the end things turn out pretty great for everyone – well, except all those dead people...

**

I spent my time reading this book going from – hmm not sure I like this, to ooh – yay – I love this, back to oh man really? Back to – oh goody that happens! Etcetera.

On the one hand I loved some of the characters. Carter is so dark and haunted, truly a monster, and a nice change of pace from the “yes I suck blood, but I’m a nice guy” Vampire.

Gordon, Carter’s butler is – well – the perfect butler. Unfailingly loyal, wise, helpful, Johnny-on-the-spot – just like Alfred is to Batman, Gordon is to Carter. He shows some of the only consistency in the entire story.

The bad guys are bad. Lyle and Boyd, the twisted duo, are really quite sick and do a great job of killing and torturing and lying and – well, being bad guys. Up until the end... then Lyle kind of makes a left turn into the land of good, which was out of character, but ended up being kind of sweet too.

Max I didn’t care for. From scene one I was like “How in the hell is a homicide detective caught unawares enough to get jumped at a bar?!” Shouldn’t he know better? Well, no. Max is the innocent lamb, following his heart into bad situations, left and right. He’d be the Red Shirt on Star Trek or the woman in most every horror movie. (Not fair to us women, but that’s how it’s been.) I never saw him as the cop and though he briefly battled with the idea of loving someone so monstrous, it was a weak “oh no, how can I ever love an evil vampire?” followed by “oh yeah baby give it to me again!” The penis is mightier than the conscience, apparently.

As far as story lines go, it was interesting. I love the fated soul mates thing and that was sweet and sexy (there is lots of hot sex in this book) and the twist at the end was a nice touch.

The mystery/bad guy part of the story line felt very true and solid, right up to the end, then it kind of went off the rails and bad guys started acting like good guys --- but it mostly worked.

The love story was not it’s strongest point. The fated soul mates thing was great and it moved our characters along quickly in the way that can only happen with soul mates, but I didn’t see our guys really ever connect in a way that wasn’t sexual. When it came time for the climactic finish – the time for sacrifice and confessions – it was awesome, so dramatic and I loved it – but I didn’t have a good build up to that scene. I didn’t feel the emotions were there behind the declarations, so though they were exciting and riveting, they, too, felt like they come from left field.

What bugged me the absolute most was the fact that I never understood why Carter felt he had to kill everyone he drank. He proved he didn't biologically need to. He proved he had a conscience and Max offered resistance to the whole killing thing... it never made sense. I liked that the author was trying to keep Carter a Vampire's Vampire... not a sappy Vampire, but I don't think it quite worked out. Carter looked inconsistent and it weakened his previously strong characterization.

So- I give this a solid 3.5 hearts. I really did enjoy reading it and it came so close to being amazing and awesome but just missed the mark. I really, really enjoy Lisa Worrall as an author (Laurel Heights, I Can See For Miles, Nanny for Nate, Always Hope) but this wasn't my favorite of her books.

As a P.S. I love the new cover by Maria Fanning – very hot!

John Inman says

It has been a long time since I read a vampire story. Boy, am I glad I broke my fast with this one. THIRST is a terrific book! It's sexy, hot, exciting, exquisitely written, and spooky as hell. Lisa Worrall did a wonderful job of hurling her reader into a stunning world of hunger, passion, bloodthirsty romance, and a male on male love affair like I've never read before. It was a love affair that transcends life, and when an author can pull that off I think they've accomplished something. THIRST has enough horror to please the horror fans, and enough romance to please the romance fans. And let's not forget Maria Fanning's fabulous cover. It's perfect. I really enjoyed this one.
